Rubric Example: Research essay (qualitative rubric)

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THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

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Rubrics like this clearly map the criteria against common elements of assessments that might be characteristic of AI use and provide clear word on egregious errors that will result in a failure.

Criteria	Outstanding	Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Fail
Research	Demonstrates sophisticated original analysis with exceptional critical thinking. Citations are thoroughly verified, contextual, and skilfully integrated. Shows deep engagement with diverse primary sources. Presents sophisticated original synthesis of complex ideas.	Shows consistent original analysis with well-integrated, accurate citations. Actively engages with sources through specific, detailed discussion. Demonstrates clear evidence of independent research. Effectively synthesizes multiple viewpoints on the issue with personal insights.	Presents some original analysis with accurate citations. Shows solid understanding of sources through discussion. Research extends beyond surface level material. Includes occasional personal insights and interpretations.	Contains minimal original analysis of sources. Engages with sources superficially. Relies heavily on easily accessible sources. Shows limited synthesis of ideas and viewpoints.	Demonstrates over-reliance on generated content. Contains unverified or fabricated citations. Shows no evidence of direct source engagement. Presents direct copying of summaries without original input. Does not respond appropriately to the brief.	Demonstrates no original analysis or evidence of independent thought. Contains citations that cannot be verified or are clearly fabricated. Contains major factual errors or misrepresentations of sources. Shows no attempt to engage with the assignment prompt.
Structure and Argument	Demonstrates clear independent reasoning throughout the work. Shows deep personal understanding of the subject matter. Presents ideas in a logical flow with nuanced transitions. Explains complex ideas through original, accessible approaches.	Shows consistent original thought in argument construction. Demonstrates solid understanding of key concepts. Maintains logical flow with clear transitions between ideas. Presents clear explanations enhanced with personal insights.	Includes elements of original thinking in argument structure. Shows basic understanding of main concepts. Creates generally logical connections between ideas. Provides adequate explanations of key points.	Presents minimal original organization of ideas. Relies heavily on source material without interpretation. Contains disconnected or repetitive arguments. Offers simplistic explanations of concepts.	Uses automatically generated structure without modification. Lacks original analysis or interpretation. Presents illogical or contradictory arguments. Shows evidence of copying without understanding. Does not respond appropriately to the brief.	Lacks any discernible logical structure or coherent argument. Contains arguments that fundamentally contradict themselves. Shows no attempt to engage with the assignment prompt.
Genre and Style	Demonstrates an authentic personal voice appropriate to the genre. Uses natural language with sophisticated variation in expression. Maintains appropriate formatting. Creates original examples and metaphors.	Maintains a mostly natural voice with good expression. Shows strong vocabulary variation and sentence structure. Contains nearly perfect formatting throughout. Presents mostly original examples that support ideas well.	Uses a generally natural voice in writing appropriate to the genre. Includes some variation in language and expression. Contains only minor formatting errors. Balances original and common examples effectively.	Writing shows an inconsistent voice throughout. Displays limited variation in vocabulary and sentence structure. Contains several noticeable errors. Relies primarily on common, unoriginal examples.	Writing displays machine-like patterns and expressions. Uses repetitive language and structure throughout. Contains multiple significant errors. Relies entirely on generic, unoriginal examples. Does not respond appropriately to the brief.	Contains jarring shifts in tone or voice that disrupt readability. Shows significant formatting inconsistencies that impede comprehension. Shows no attempt to engage with the assignment prompt.

Fabrication or misrepresentation of sources will result in an automatic fail grade for this assessment, regardless of performance in other criteria. This includes but is not limited to: citing non-existent sources or attributing false quotes to real sources. Such issues demonstrate failure to meet the core learning outcomes for the course and may also be referred for academic misconduct.