Case Essays Grading Sheet

Student: _____

1. *Thesis, focus, and responsiveness (25 pts).* The essay contains <u>on the first page</u> a clearly identifiable, specific, crisply-stated thesis. Overall, the thesis and ensuing paragraphs in the essay clearly address the option you have chosen without flying off onto unrelated tangents.

The thesis is . . .
10 – generally very clearly identifiable, specific, and crisply stated
9 – written so specifically that it runs on too long, or occupies an entire paragraph rather than one tight sentence
8 – written so generally that it does not reveal much specific information about the substance of the essay
7 – written as a road map for the essay rather than an argument that the essay will defend
6 – difficult to identify *or* quite difficult to understand

The essay . . .
15 – is focused from start to finish and offers developed coverage of the option you have chosen
14 – is generally focused, but on occasion veers off track slightly
12 – takes a significant detour that creates confusion
11 – on occasion slightly veers off track *and* contains a significant detour that creates confusion
9 – generally veers from the assignment, even though the essay may develop a clear overall argument

2. *Theoretical concepts (25 pts).* The essay is explicitly grounded in key theoretical concepts we have explored in class, and makes explicit citations to the theoretical readings in an analytically sharp and accurate way.

The essay . . .
25 – contains explicit, analytically sharp, and accurate use of theoretical concepts
23 – generally draws well on theoretical concepts, but evidence of minor errors/omissions/ambiguities
21 – draws on theoretical concepts, but evidence of a major error/omission/ambiguity
19 – draws on theoretical concepts, but evidence of minor errors/omissions/ambiguities *and* a major error/omission/ambiguity
17 – draws on theoretical concepts, but evidence of multiple major errors/omissions/ambiguities
15 – does not appear to draw on theoretical concepts

3. *Concrete examples (25 pts).* The essay makes frequent use of concrete examples, which help to reveal and clarify the meaning of the theoretical concepts.

The essay . . .
25 -- integrates concrete examples frequently and does an excellent job of applying them
23 – generally integrates concrete examples well, but evidence of minor errors/omissions/ambiguities
21 -- integrates concrete examples, but evidence of a major error/omission/ambiguity
19 -- integrates concrete examples, but evidence of minor errors/omissions/ambiguities *and* a
     major error/omission/ambiguity
17 -- integrates relevant concrete examples, but evidence of multiple major errors/omissions/ambiguities
15 -- is primarily written at a very high level of generality even though it may contain occasional examples

4. *Quality of the prose (25 pts).* The essay's language is clear, direct, concise, and avoids passive voice. The voice of the author dictates the essay's tempo, rather than lengthy direct quotations or extensive summaries from readings. The author has read the essay carefully to eliminate errors or inconsistencies in grammar, spelling, and citation of sources.

The essay . . .
25 – [1] contains language that is clear, direct, concise, and avoids passive voice; [2] avoids lengthy direct quotations or excessive summaries; [3] is free from errors or inconsistencies in grammar, spelling, and citation of sources
24 – contains minor inconsistency in 1 area
23 – contains minor inconsistency in more than 1 area
22 – contains major inconsistency in 1 area
21 – contains major inconsistency in 1 area and minor inconsistencies elsewhere
20 – contains major inconsistency in 2 areas
19 – contains major inconsistency in 2 areas and minor inconsistencies elsewhere
18 – contains major inconsistency in 3 areas

Editing symbols
awk = awkward or clunky language

pv = passive voice

√   = great use of language

[…] = wordy; can tighten the prose

_____ … _____ = agreement problem