SOC 201 – Essay Question Guidelines and Rubric

Three parts to essay questions:
1. **Regurgitation**: spitting out the facts and material presented by the text, lecture, and readings.
2. **Application**: applying the above material to real-world examples.
3. **Interpretation**: critically assessing the material's relevance to society and one's personal life.

Generally, all essay questions ask for the above parts (often 3 distinct questions). If you only regurgitate, you have only answered one-third (1/3) of the question. One-third (1/3) answer = one-third (1/3) points.

**General Writing Guidelines/Rules**
1. Use Microsoft Word (not Works or Word Perfect)
2. 12 point New Times New Roman font
3. Bibliography attached to the document (one document)
4. Insert page numbers, centered at bottom
5. Essay length to be discussed
6. Number of sources to be discussed
7. Do not use Wikipedia or any other encyclopedia references
8. Double space
9. Create a cover page that includes your name, the course title and number (SOC 201), the assignment, and the date it was turned in. Do not put this information on any other page.
10. All margins must be set at 1 inch.

**Writing Assignment Rubric**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Subject statement</th>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Logic</th>
<th>Mechanics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A 90-98</td>
<td>Easily identifiable, plausible, clear, and strong.</td>
<td>Evident, understandable, and appropriate for thesis. Excellent transitions from point to point. Paragraphs clearly support topic sentences.</td>
<td>All ideas in the paper flow logically; the argument is identifiable, reasonable, and sound.</td>
<td>Sentence structure, grammar, and diction are excellent; correct use of punctuation and citation style; no spelling errors; absolutely no run-on sentences or sentence fragments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B 80-89</td>
<td>Slightly unclear or lacks insight.</td>
<td>Clear for the most part but wanders from subject at times. Transitions unclear. Paragraphs without strong beginning sentence.</td>
<td>Arguments are understandable with a flow of logic. May lack some continuity.</td>
<td>May have some grammatical errors (very few) or run-on sentences. No misspellings or fragments. Citations may be used incorrectly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 70-79</td>
<td>May be unclear as to what subject matter is being addressed. Terminology may be vague or un-useful in addressing the subject.</td>
<td>May wander off subject at times. Weak transitions in paragraphs.</td>
<td>Logic fails or is unclear at times. May fail to examine alternatives.</td>
<td>Problems with sentence structure and grammar. Errors in punctuation and citations. May contain run-on sentences or fragments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D 60-69</td>
<td>Difficult to identify the subject matter. Generally requires material from the course without application.</td>
<td>Tends to ramble and fails to stay on subject. Arguments are unclear. Approach to subject matter may be simplistic and lack critical thinking.</td>
<td>No flow of ideas. Logic missing.</td>
<td>Significant grammatical problems. Some misspellings. Poor sentence structure. Errors in punctuation and citation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F &lt;60</td>
<td>Fails to make a statement about the subject matter.</td>
<td>Disorganized. No transition sentences. Weak arrangement of paragraphs.</td>
<td>No logic or flow of ideas.</td>
<td>Significant problems with grammar, spelling, and sentence structure. Punctuation and citation problems.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>