Student _____ Panelist _____

SENIOR THESIS DEFENSE – GRADING RUBRIC

Students will be graded according to the three categories below. Write a grade for each category at the bottom and provide comments for the students on the right side and/or the back of the page.

1) PRESENTATION: INVENTION & ARRANGEMENT

Comments:

The ideal presenter genuinely impresses the panel, capturing the audience's attention from the outset and presenting a well-structured, memorable speech that is both logically and emotionally compelling:

- **Introduction:** The student begins by making the audience attentive and receptive, showing the topic's relevance and importance.
- **Narration/Division:** The student provides sufficient background/context, clarifying why the issue is in dispute.
- **Proof:** Arguments are well-chosen, persuasive, and develop the thesis statement; each argument is supported by compelling reasoning and evidence.
- **Overall Clarity/Coherence:** The thesis statement and arguments are clear and well-stated; transitions from point to point are clear.
- **Overall *Pathos*:** The audience's emotions are touched by the presentation, especially in the introduction and conclusion.

2) PRESENTATION: MEMORY, STYLE, & DELIVERY

The ideal presenter is comfortable, well-prepared, eloquent, & winsome:

- **Clear/Appropriate Style:** Clarity is achieved through the proper use of words. Style is not too formal, technical, or casual.
- **Memory/Preparation:** The speech is well-practiced and delivered in a natural manner. Introduction and conclusion should be memorized or mostly memorized.
- **Use of the Voice:** Natural, clear, audible, understandable; not too fast; persuasive use of tone and pitch; good use of pause.
- **Use of the Body:** Poised, good posture, relaxed—includes facial expression. Eye contact makes the audience feel personally addressed; natural gestures enhance speech.

3) CONVERSATION WITH THE PANEL

The ideal presenter responds directly and credibly with poise, clarity, wisdom, and humility, demonstrating advanced knowledge in the field and serious forethought about the implications of the thesis:

- The student provides clear, concise, satisfactory answers.
- The student can speculate intelligently about related matters that fall outside the direct scope of the thesis.
- The student interacts with the panelists in a respectful yet confident manner, exhibiting excellent overall delivery.

Students will receive back the portion of the rubric above this line. They will not see the scores entered below. Students will receive a single grade for each category representing the average of all three panelists.

1) PRESENTATION: INVENTION & ARRANGEMENT	**Score: _____ / 100**
2) PRESENTATION: MEMORY, STYLE, & DELIVERY	**Score: _____ / 100**
3) CONVERSATION WITH THE PANEL	**Score: _____ / 100**