Rubric for Essay on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Criteria	Needs Improvement	Approaching Standard	Above Standard	Exemplary
Coherence of Argument	No coherent stance or argument on the merits of the bill as of early 2009 can be discerned. The introduction and conclusion are ambigious	Formulates a coherent stance on the merits of the bill as of early 2009, but the argument lacks pertinent supportive evidence throughout the essay	Formulates a coherent stance and compelling argument on the merits of the bill as of early 2009, that is articulated in the introduction or conclusion and which is occassionally supported	Formulates a coherent stance and compelling argument on the merits of the bill as of early 2009, that is articulated in the introduction and conclusion, and which is supported throughout
Demonstrate Understading of Fiscal Policy and its Critiques	Ignores common economic thinking on drawbacks verusus possible benefits of employing fiscal stabilization policy	Articulates some of the common economic critiques of fiscal policy. Ambigousuly contrasts these against arguments in favor of fiscal stabilization policy	Articulates some of the common economic critiques of fiscal policy. Weighs these against arguments in favor of fiscal stabilization policy	Articulates most of the common economic critiques of fiscal policy and convincingly argue which ones would apply or be inapplicable to the Recovery Act. Clearly weighs these against arguments in favor of fiscal stabilization policy
Economic Context	Omits economic context, or provides context impertinent to understanding the policy decision when it was made.	Provides some pertinent economic context to understanding the policy decision when it was made. The context does not clearly advance the argument being made	Provides some pertinent economic context to understanding the policy decision when it was made. The cited context somewhat supports the argument being made, and is somewhat well integrated into the essay	Provides considerable relevant economic context to understanding the policy decision when it was made, such as with respect to the stance of monetary policy and what was known about the Great Recession. The context relayed clearly supports the argument being made, and is well integrated into the essay
Application of *IS-LM, AS-AD* Framework to Policy Question	Analysis using the *IS-LM/AS-AD* model is severely flawed, or demonstrates basic lack of comprehension of the model	Analysis using the *IS-LM/AS-AD* model is mostly on track and demonstrates comprehension, but does not advance your argument	Cogently applies the *IS-LM/AS-AD* framework to expansionary fiscal policy in the pertinent context for the Recovery Act. The application somewhat supports your argument	Adeptly applies the *IS-LM/AS-AD* framework to expansionary fiscal policy in the pertinent context for the Recovery Act. Analsysis demonstrates understanding of the model's feedback effects and advances your argument
Empirical Analysis	Omits empirical analysis supporting your position, or the analysis is severely flawed	Mentions pertinent economic data series, omitting figures and data sources, or providing confusing figures	Mentions pertinent economic data series in support of your position, and provides some useful figures or data sources	Provides comprehensive analysis of pertinent economic data series in support of your position, along with referencing relevant figures and data sources
Quality of Writing	Sloppily written with abundant typos and grammatical errors. Structurally disarrayed, to the point of impeding comprehension	Would have benefited from another copy edit. Writing style neither impedes nor aids advancement of the argument	Clearly written with some typos and grammatical errors. Mostly well organized and somewhat creative	Clearly written with minimumal typos and grammatical errors. Well organized, structured, and creative.