

**MSDS 660**  
**Written Assignments**  
**Grading Rubric**

Qualities & Criteria	Poor	Good	Excellent
Content, vocabulary & Mechanics (Weight 10%)	Little or no use of terms or incorrect use. Spelling and grammar error throughout	Good use and linking of terms but still lacking fluency, with a few spelling and grammar errors	Fluency, sequencing, & appropriateness of terms, concepts, practices, & authors, with no spelling or grammar errors
Conceptualization (Weight 30%)	Little or no use of concepts or practices; may show previous knowledge from career, but does not demonstrate learning related to course	Integrated concepts or practices	Integrating or synthesizing concepts in original and innovative way
Organization (Weight 10%)	Unclear or no purpose statement or overview, few organizational cues, disorganized presentation	Clear statement, well organized, thesis sentences, good cues; good transitions and sequencing	Previous criteria plus attractive layout and design; publishable format in APA style
Argument Conclusion (Weight 30%)	Presentation of opinion or statement without evidentiary or logical support; illogical argument	Clearly sequenced steps leading to clear conclusion, logical argument with authoritative sources (not necessarily current)	Clear statement, examples, sequencing, logical and multiple authorities, evidentiary support, current journal sources
Resources (Weight 10%)	No resources referenced	Use of secondary sources meets requirements using APA	Predominance of sound primary authorities, recent journals, in-text citations match references, good citations using APA
APA Style (Weight 10%)	Not in APA style	APA style with a few errors	Publishable in APA style