

Louisiana Tech University Cyber Discovery

Paper Writing

This week you will write a total of four papers covering a variety of subject matter addressed via a combination of the movie discussions, the liberal arts lectures, and the nightly readings. Some of these papers will offer you the ability to be more creative than others, but for the most part each paper will be judged by the same standards. Three different liberal arts professors will blindly read and grade your papers, assessing your success based on the following criteria:

Content: Your ability to follow the prompt, have a clear argument (if required), produce fully developed paragraphs, provide evidence (when necessary), analyze and summarize the texts (when required), and follow word count restrictions. Rhetorical awareness is also going to be an important aspect of each paper, by which you should understand target audience, point of view, and specific contexts.

Organization: Your ability to clearly introduce your subject matter, create consistently structured body paragraphs, and have a clear conclusion. You are not limited to a particular number of paragraphs; however, there is a word count restriction that you must follow (500 words each, no more than 550, no less than 450). With this limitation, you should think about organizing your paper around 3-4 paragraphs.

Style: Your ability to produce clear, logical prose that is grammatically correct and include transitional words/phrases when necessary. When using quotations, they should be smoothly integrated with signal phrases and attributive verbs. Strong, concise writing usually results in the best papers.

Evaluation rubric for essays

Content

A	Excellent: answers all questions completely; analysis is logically consistent; outstanding research/support for analysis and argument; factually correct
B	Good: answers all questions, but perhaps not all equally well; analysis is generally consistent; good research/ support; factually correct
C	Fair: answers question, but does not address all elements adequately; analysis good in spots, but generally superficial; research/support often inadequate for assertions; may contain factual errors
D	Poor: superficially answers question or gives simple summary of events; little analysis; little or no research/support; contains major factual errors
F	Unacceptable: doesn't answer question or is consistently off-topic

Organization

A	Excellent: tight paragraphs with good topic sentences; great transitions; gripping introduction with clear thesis; persuasive conclusion
B	Good: structured paragraphs; introduction with thesis statement; conclusion
C	Fair: poorly-organized paragraphs; either missing an introduction or a conclusion; poor or no thesis statement
D	Poor: no introduction and no conclusion; long disorganized paragraphs; no thesis statement
F	Unacceptable: no organization; rambling, disjointed mess

Style

A	Excellent: near flawless prose; very few awkward constructions; no grammatical errors
B	Good: clear prose; few awkward constructions; one or two grammatical errors
C	Fair: readable prose; several awkward constructions; between three and five grammatical errors
D	Poor: barely decipherable prose; many awkward constructions; more than five grammatical errors
F	Unacceptable: incoherent prose