

Rubric

Name _____ Grading Rubric for Writing Assignments

Description _____

Rubric Detail

Criteria	Levels of Achievement				
	Fails Completely	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement	Competent	Exemplary
Exposition	9 Points No clear relation to the problem, alternatives, or solutions.	18 Points The description of the problem or issue is inaccurate, and possible alternatives or solutions are not considered, and examples are not provided.	22.5 Points The description of the problem or issue is fairly accurate but not precise, and possible alternatives or solutions are either not considered, or ill-described. Examples are given, but it is not made clear how they are relevant.	25.5 Points The description of the problem or issue is fairly accurate and precise, and possible alternatives or solutions are considered. Examples are given, but similar examples may have been better.	30 Points The paper contains a very accurate and precise description of the issue or problem, the significance of the issue, and what the consequences are of one position or another. The paper contains relevant examples, and indicates the salient issues the examples highlight
Logical Argumentation	6 Points No effort made to construct a logical argument. Failure to support thesis.	12 Points Little attempt to offer support for key claims or to relate evidence to thesis. Reasons	15 Points Arguments of poor quality. Weak, undeveloped reasons offered in support of key claims. Counter-arguments	17 Points Argument is clear and usually flows logically and makes sense. Some counter-arguments acknowledged,	20 Points Arguments are identifiable, reasonable, and sound. Clear reasons are offered in support of key claims. Author anticipates and successfully grapples

		offered may be irrelevant. Little to no effort to address alternative views.	mentioned without rebuttal.	though perhaps not addressed fully.	with counter-arguments.
Thesis	3 Points No identifiable thesis or thesis shows lack of effort or comprehension of assignment.	6 Points Difficult to identify, inconsistently maintained, or provides little around which to structure paper.	7.5 Points Unclear, buried, poorly articulated, lacking in insight and originality.	8.5 Points Promising, but may be unclear or lacking insight or originality.	10 Points Easily identifiable, interesting, plausible, novel, sophisticated, insightful, clear
Examples	3 Points Examples are missing.	6 Points Examples are irrelevant and/or misused.	7.5 Points Examples are unoriginal, only somewhat relevant, and/or not well-used.	8.5 Points Examples are original, relevant, and well-used.	10 Points Examples are original, relevant, insightful, and well-used.
Structure and style	3 Points No evident structure or organization. No transitions between major points.	6 Points Unclear, unfocused, disorganized, lacking in unity, transitions abrupt or confusing, context unclear.	7.5 Points Generally unclear, unfocused, often wanders or jumps around. Few or weak transitions. Does not provide sufficient information, explanation, and context for readers.	8.5 Points Generally clear and appropriate, though may wander occasionally. May have some unclear transitions or lack of coherence. Does not fully appreciate reader's need for information, explanation, and context.	10 Points Evident, understandable, appropriate for thesis. Essay is focused and unified. Words chosen effectively. Excellent transitions between points. Anticipates reader's need for information, explanation, and context.

Mechanics

3 Points

Difficult to understand because of significant problems with sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

6 Points

Several problems with sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

7.5 Points

Some problems with sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, and spelling

8.5 Points

Sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, and spelling strong despite occasional lapses

10 Points

Correct sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Use of sources

3 Points

No attempt made to incorporate information from primary and secondary sources.

6 Points

Very little information from sources. Poor handling of sources.

7.5 Points

Moderate amount of source information incorporated. Some key points supported by sources. Quotations may be poorly integrated into paragraphs. Some possible problems with source citations.

8.5 Points

Draws upon sources to support most points. Some evidence may not support thesis or may appear where inappropriate. Quotations integrated well into paragraphs. Sources cited correctly.

10 Points

Draws upon primary and secondary source information in useful and illuminating ways to support key points. Excellent integration of quoted material into paragraphs. Sources cited correctly.

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