

Short Paper Rubric

Description: Your writing assignments will be graded out of four points. Each of the following criteria can earn up to one point: argument, comprehension, analysis, and style/grammar. The sum of these criteria will constitute your raw score, which will then be converted to a 4.0 scale and rounded up to the nearest letter grade. (E.G., 36 points = 3.6 = 3.67 or A-). Please consult your course syllabus for more information on grading.

Grade	Argument	Comprehension	Analysis	Style/Grammar
.9-1.0	Has a strong, clear, and original thesis that answers the question; demonstrates creativity and enthusiasm for topic	Demonstrates a close, careful reading of the documents and/or articles and a clear understanding of their context and meaning	Offers an insightful and compelling interpretation; critically evaluates the readings, not simply summarizing them; gives detailed examples from the readings to support thesis	Easy and enjoyable to read; writing clear and precise; well organized; few if any typos or other errors; follows citation instructions.
.6-.8	Thesis may be somewhat less strong or clear	Good comprehension but may be less detailed or more cursory	Good interpretation but may be less insightful or detailed	Writing clear and well organized; a few typos but not distracting to overall flow
.3-.5	Thesis may just restate the question but offers little originality; too general in nature	Comprehension is very general; not directly related to the question; may simply summarize the material	General interpretation with no serious errors; excessive summary of readings; less detailed; not particularly insightful; doesn't relate analysis to question/thesis; fails to quote from readings	Less easy to read; writing not as clear or organized; several typos or other errors
0-.2	No thesis; doesn't attempt to answer question	Comprehension questionable; did not actually do the reading or misread	Analysis superficial and vague; unrelated to question; erroneous	Hard to follow; writing unclear and unorganized; many typos and errors