

Writing Rubric

All written assignments must be submitted on blackboard by the due date. Assignments will be docked one letter grade for each 24 hours or part thereof they are late, unless a documented unforeseeable excuse is provided. Since you have the entire semester's schedule now, please plan your time so as to complete all assignments early, so that you are prepared if something unexpected happens. Page limits are meant to give you a sense of how comprehensive the paper ought to be, not as strict rules. If you have something important to say, say it. If you don't, don't waste your time (and mine) by padding the page. These are worth a total of 10% of your overall grade, or 5% each. All information you acquire from sources other than your own creativity must be appropriately cited. I prefer AAG style, which is similar to APA (see the library website for details), but any complete and consistent citation format is acceptable. I expect students to exercise critical judgment in evaluating sources, both from the Internet and from the library. If you have any questions about sources or citations, please talk to me before the due date—I would rather have you do it right than lose points for doing it wrong.

	Distinguished 90-100%	Proficient 80-89%	Acceptable 70-79%	Weak 0-69%
Follows Directions 20%	Responds fully and appropriately to the assignment in timely fashion	Responds reasonably well to assignment in timely fashion	Responds acceptably to assignment in a timely fashion	Significant failure to respond to assignment or untimely
Use of Evidence 20%	Appropriate source information (typically primary) used to support thesis and buttress all arguments made in essay, excellent integration of quoted/paraphrased material into writing.	Appropriate source information used to support thesis and to buttress most arguments, good integration of sources into writing	Sometimes weak use of source information (excessively secondary), inadequately supports thesis and/or sub-arguments, weak integration of quoted/paraphrased material into writing	Wholly failures to use sources appropriately
Analysis, Logic and	All ideas progress logically from an	Thesis is generally supported by logically	Insufficient support for some arguments,	Wholly fails to related evidence to thesis

Argumentation 20%	identifiable thesis, compelling justifications are offered to support thesis, counter-arguments are anticipated and addressed, appropriate connections are made to outside material	compelling assertions and appropriate connections	assertions are vague or lack focus, support offered is sometimes irrelevant, tangential or repetitive	statement
Organization 20%	coherent and clear, all paragraphs support thesis statement, each paragraph supports its topic sentence, excellent transitions	mostly coherent, generally supports thesis, good transitions	Often lacks coherence, mixed support for thesis, transitions often missing or weak	Wholly incoherent, unresponsive of thesis and lacking in transitions
Mechanics (Grammar, Spelling, Language Usage, Sentence Structure, Citation Format) 20%	Excellent command of language, proper use of grammar/writing conventions, few to no misspelled words, correct word choice, excellent variety and complexity of sentence structure, uses proper citation format	Good command of language, generally proper use of grammar/writing conventions, minimal misspelled words, largely good word choice, some variety and complexity in sentence structure, generally uses proper citation format	Generally proper use of grammar/writing conventions, but with simple sentences generally lacking variety/complexity in structure, acceptable citation format	Extremely weak use of language/poor grammar, and pervasive errors seriously undermine coherence, improper citation format