

Rubric to Assess Writing

	<b>A (4)</b>	<b>B (3)</b>	<b>C (2)</b>	<b>D (1)</b>
<b>Thesis</b>	The topic of this paper and the argument you will make about it is clear, sophisticated, plausible, and original.	The topic is clear and sophisticated. The argument you will make about it is slightly unclear or it is lacking in originality.	The topic is unclear or it is bland and obvious. Not supported by an original argument but by an opinion you state as fact.	The topic is vague or completely lacking. You just restate obvious points. No original arguments advanced.
<b>Structure</b>	Your thesis is supported by a number of relevant arguments, each of which is clearly presented in the body of your essay and elaborated with good transitions between ideas. Your conclusion is appropriate and thought provoking.	Generally clear but some of the ideas may need more elaboration. Most transitions are good. Some ideas may lack a clear introduction. The conclusion is appropriate.	Transitions between your ideas unclear or you may wander from topic to topic. Some ideas are not well integrated into the essay. The conclusion is unsupported by the essay.	The structure is unclear. Few topic sentences and the transitions between ideas is hard to follow. Conclusion is inappropriate or missing.
<b>Completeness</b>	You answer the question or address the problem as asked, including all information required.	You include most of the information required but you have left out some (minor) aspects of the problem.	You do not address a major part of the problem.	You do not respond to the question or problem as it is posed.
<b>Use of linguistic evidence</b>	Appropriately chosen evidence from primary sources or discussions. Examples used when necessary to illustrate a point, not to make it. Shows you understand well the relevance of the empirical evidence to the topic at hand. Citations are well chosen and integrated into the essay.	Good use of evidence to support your ideas. However, at times, you may cite evidence without really stating its relevance to the issue or you neglect critical evidence. Overall, you use examples well. Citations are well chosen and integrated in the essay.	Evidence used is not appropriate to the argument or relevant evidence is missing. You often use an example without demonstrating why it is relevant. Citations are not well integrated. No evidence included that cannot be found in the textbook.	Evidence is vague, wrongly interpreted, or missing. Citations are not integrated.
<b>Terminology</b>	Excellent use of technical terms. Shows you understand them well.	Generally good use of technical terms. Sometimes terms are misapplied.	Avoids technical terms when they should be used or occasionally misuse of terms	Shows no attempt to use/understand technical terms. Generally poor use of terminology.
<b>Grammar &amp; Style</b>	No problems of either grammar or spelling. Your style is sophisticated and appropriate. The essay is a pleasure to read - interesting, well organized, and novel.	Generally no problems in either grammar or spelling. Occasional small difficulties in style with respect to punctuation. The essay is readable, interesting, and well organized.	Avoids technical terms when they should be used or occasionally misuse of terms	Paper shows little or no evidence of proof reading. Major and frequent errors in spelling and grammar. Difficult to read.
<b>Use of sources</b>	Primary sources, when necessary, are cited in a recognizable format (MLA, APA, LSA). All sources cited or referenced are found in 'Reference' section at end of essay. Print sources beyond web sites and textbooks included.	Primary sources, when necessary, are cited in a recognizable format (MLA, APA, LSA). All sources cited or referenced are found in 'Reference' section at end of essay. Judicious use of web sites.	Primary sources, when necessary, are cited in 'References' but it is unclear where you used them in your essay. Some attributions clearly lacking. Too much reliance on the web & on encyclopedias.	Paper shows little or no evidence of proof reading. Major and frequent errors in spelling and grammar. Difficult to read.