

	Flawless (100)	Exemplary (95)	Advanced (85)	Proficient (75)	Developing (65)	Unsatisfactory (50)
Assignment (20%)	20	Essay not only follows assignment guidelines, appeals to appropriate audience, and maintains a clear purpose, but does so in a creative way that transcends simply following the assignment. (19)	All assignment guidelines are followed. Moves are made throughout the essay to appeal to the appropriate audience. The purpose is clear throughout the entire essay. (17)	Assignment guidelines basically are followed correctly. The essay basically works for the appropriate audience. The purpose is sustained throughout the entire essay. (15)	Essay exhibits a few of the following issues: minor variations from assignment guidelines, minor lapses in writing to the appropriate audience, and/or unclear purpose in one or more places. (13)	Essay exhibits a few of the following problems: assignment not followed, essay not written to appropriate audience, and/or no discernible purpose. (10)
Content (30%)	30	Critical thinking, which may include exploring multiple sides of an issue, recognizing the big picture, and connecting ideas in interesting ways, shows advanced engagement with the essay topic. All claims are supported with evidence and explanations, and the evidence and explanations are seamlessly integrated with the student's ideas. (28.5)	Critical thinking adds significant value to the essay. All claims are supported with evidence and explanations. (25.5)	Critical thinking is attempted throughout the essay. Many claims supported with evidence and explanations. (22.5)	Critical thinking is noticeably missing in parts of the essay. There is little attempt to consider multiple sides of the issue or recognize larger issues within the essay topic. Body paragraphs lack enough support and/or explanation to support thesis or topic sentence claims. (19.5)	Critical thinking is missing or adds no value to the paper. Evidence and/or explanations are largely missing from the paper. (15)
Organization (20%)	20	Thesis guides the paper and provides an insightful entrance into the topic. Paragraphs focus on one topic each and are introduced in a sensible order. The ordering of and transitions between paragraphs and sentences enhance development of ideas. Transitions are especially insightful. Introduction and conclusion are thought-provoking. (19)	Thesis guides the paper and is clear. Paragraphs focus on one topic each. The ordering of and transitions between paragraphs and sentences enhance development of ideas within the paper. Introduction and conclusion add value to the paper. (17)	Thesis guides the paper. Paragraphs for the most part focus on one topic each. The order of and transition between paragraphs and sentences makes sense for the paper overall, even if there are a few minor lapses in effectiveness. Introduction and conclusion are appropriate for the paper. (15)	A few of the following areas are ineffective: thesis, paragraphing, transitions between paragraphs and/or sentences, introduction, or conclusion. (13)	A number of the following issues are ineffective: thesis, paragraphing, transitions between paragraphs and/or sentences, introduction, or conclusion. (10)
Style (15%)	15	Voice, tone, and level of formality are used to appeal to the audience and effectively accomplish the essay's purpose. The sentence style is consistently sophisticated and creates an appealing reading experience. (14.25)	Voice, tone, and level of formality are consistently appropriate for audience and purpose. The sentence style usually creates an appealing reading experience with few or no instances of wordiness or unclear phrasing. (12.75)	Voice, tone, and level of formality are generally appropriate for audience and purpose. The sentence style does not distract from the ideas being presented but the paper may exhibit some wordiness or unclear phrasing. (11.25)	Occasional lapses in using the appropriate voice, tone, or level of formality. Sentence style needs work in one or two of the following areas: clarity, concision, vocabulary, sentence length variety, sentence structure variety, and wordiness. (9.75)	Voice, tone, and level of formality are often inappropriate for audience and purpose. Sentence style and/or significant wordiness consistently distracts from the ideas being presented. (7.5)
Conventions (15%)	15	Grammar, punctuation, and spelling are correct throughout the paper. Quotations, paraphrases, summaries are integrated smoothly, and documentation is handled correctly. Formatting is correct throughout the paper. (14.25)	No more than a few isolated issues with grammar, punctuation, or spelling. Quotations, paraphrases, summaries are integrated into the paper, and documentation is largely correct with only a few minor errors. Formatting is largely correct. (12.75)	Issues with grammar, punctuation, and/or spelling are infrequent and do not impede the ideas being presented. There may be a few errors in quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, documenting sources, or formatting. (11.25)	Issues with grammar, punctuation, and/or spelling make portions of the essay hard to follow. There may be notable problems with quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, documenting sources, and/or formatting. Paper may include frequent "dropped" quotations. (9.75)	Issues with grammar, punctuation, spelling consistently impede meaning throughout the essay. Quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, documenting sources, and/or formatting are largely incorrect. Most quotations are "dropped." (7.5)