

Final Essay Rubric

Criteria	Exemplary (5)	Superior (4/3)	Minimal (2)	Unacceptable (1/0)
Focus: Purpose ____/5	Purpose is clear	Shows awareness of purpose	Shows limited awareness of purpose	No awareness
Main idea ____/5	Clearly presents a main idea and supports it throughout the paper.	There is a main idea supported throughout most of the paper.	Vague sense of a main idea, weakly supported throughout the paper.	No main idea
Organization: Overall ____/5	Well-planned and well-thought out. Includes title, introduction, statement of main idea, transitions and conclusion.	Good overall organization, includes the main organizational tools.	There is a sense of organization, although some of the organizational tools are used weakly or missing	No sense of organization
Organization: Paragraphs ____/5	All paragraphs have clear ideas, are supported with examples and have smooth transitions.	Most paragraphs have clear ideas, are supported with some examples and have transitions.	Some paragraphs have clear ideas, support from examples may be missing and transitions are weak.	Paragraphs lack clear ideas.
Content ____/5	Exceptionally well-presented and argued; ideas are detailed, well-developed, supported with specific evidence & facts, as well as examples and specific details.	Well-presented and argued; ideas are detailed, developed and supported with evidence and details, mostly specific.	Content is sound and solid; ideas are present but not particularly developed or supported; some evidence, but usually of a generalized nature.	Content is not sound.
Research and Academic Honesty and Integrity (such as references to AI content and course readings) ____/5	Sources are exceptionally well-integrated, and they support claims argued in the paper very effectively. Quotations and articles are cited. Student wrote all the assignment content without consulting AI or the internet; or, consulted AI/internet for ideas, then wrote and submitted the assignment.	Sources are well integrated and support the paper's claims. There may be occasional errors, but the sources and Quotations and articles are cited. Student may have created one to three AI responses, used the best parts, edited, adjusted, and submitted.	Sources support some claims made in the paper but might not be integrated well within the paper's argument. Quotations and articles are not all cited accurately. Student may have entered a prompt into AI, copied the response, and submitted it without verifying or analyzing AI content.	The paper does not use adequate research or if it does, the sources are not integrated well. Sources cannot be verified. Quotations and articles are not cited. Student/instructor discussion needed.

Criteria	Exemplary (5)	Superior (4/3)	Minimal (2)	Unacceptable (1/0)
Style: Sentence structure, Word choice, Tone, Details, and Examples ____/5	Sentences are clear and varied in pattern, from simple to complex, with excellent use of punctuation. There is clear use of a personal and unique style of writing, suited to audience and purpose; the paper holds the reader's interest with ease. Large amounts of specific examples and detailed descriptions.	Sentences are clear but may lack variation; a few may be awkward and there may be a few punctuation errors. There is an attempt at a personal style, but style of writing may be awkward or unsuited to audience and purpose; the reader may lose interest in some sections of the paper. Some use of specific examples and detailed descriptions. May have extended examples that go on for too long.	Sentences are generally clear but may have awkward structure or unclear content; there may be patterns of punctuation errors. There is little attempt at style; reads as flat and perhaps uninteresting in content, which is usually generalized and clichéd. Little use of specific examples and details; mostly generalized examples and little description.	Sentences aren't clear. No attempt at style. No use of examples. clear.
Grammar & Mechanics ____/5	Excellent grammar, spelling, syntax and punctuation.	A few errors in grammar, spelling, syntax and punctuation, but not many.	Shows a pattern of errors in spelling, grammar, syntax and/or punctuation. Could also be a sign of lack of proof-reading.	Continuous errors