

### WRITING RUBRIC FOR USE IN EVALUATING STUDENT WRITING

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>Unacceptable</b>
<b>General</b>	The <b>A</b> paper is generally excellent. It is characterized by maturity, insightfulness, originality, or creativity in developing the central idea. A strong sense of purpose, a keen awareness of audience, clear organization, effective language and full development are the hall-marks of the <b>A</b> paper	The <b>B</b> paper organizes well thought-out material into coherent unified paragraphs that have clear topic sentences in support of a central idea. Overall, the <b>B</b> paper, while not as insightful as an A paper, is above average.	The <b>C</b> paper is adequate but with one or more aspects of the paper needing work. It may lack the originality of ideas, fluency, and inventiveness of the A or B paper. In addition, the C paper may have mechanical errors.	The <b>D</b> paper is marginally acceptable. It may have problems with content, organization, style, and /or mechanics. Its sentences and ideas may be incoherent and/or loosely connected. The <b>D</b> paper's problems impair its overall effectiveness.	The paper contains excessive weaknesses in content, organization, sentence structure, diction, and/or mechanics. It may contain numerous errors that impede comprehension and compromise clarity. The paper may also be unacceptable for failure to fulfill assignment requirements or for plagiarism.
<b>The instructor will apply the criteria below as appropriate within the context of the assignment.</b>					
<b>Content</b>	Has an engaging, focused topic with thoroughness, clarity, and creativity. It exhibits interesting and well-developed examples, explanations, and supporting evidence.	Contains a focused topic, strong development with evidence that is detailed and well supported, and an above average level of sophistication.	With more support and development, ideas would be more convincing and provide depth of meaning.	May have vague, unsophisticated, undeveloped, or unrelated content.	Insufficient development of topic and/or little or no specific detail.
<b>Organization</b>	Beyond a well-organized introduction, body, and conclusion in support of the central idea, the paper is characterized by a logical sequence of ideas: graceful transitions: and balanced, thorough development.	Well organized; it contains an introduction, well-developed paragraphs, and a conclusion. A logical sequence and balance of ideas as well as appropriate transitions are evident.	Evidences a recognizable pattern with a central idea; could be more unified, with more coherent paragraphs: and better transitions.	Often unclear, indirect, or illogical; needs to be more clearly organized with clear examples and evidence for the main ideas.	Lacks a central idea, a clear organizational plan, and development.
<b>Style</b>	Exhibits a sophisticated use of sentence structure and language, including sentence variety as well as precise, appropriate diction, tone, and figures of speech.	Demonstrates sentence variety, and appropriate tone.	May not be engaging, but the style is appropriate to the subject matter and audience. Inconsistent tone, unsuitable diction, and /or unsophisticated sentence structure may occasionally weaken the paper.	Characterized by simplistic, undeveloped, or inappropriate style.	Inconsistent, incoherent, monotonous or awkward sentence structure or diction that results in a loss of clarity.
<b>Mechanics</b>	Virtually free of mechanical problems, including sentence, spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors. It demonstrates careful proofreading and adherence to formal conventions.	Does not contain serious or numerous mechanical errors. It demonstrates generally correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, and sentence structure, but could use some improvement.	Demonstrates a basic knowledge and application of grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation. However, it may have errors that detract from the overall effectiveness of the paper.	Includes significant problems in spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and diction that interfere with communication.	Contains many errors in sentence, grammar, punctuation, and spelling that block communication.