

Grading Rubric

	Sophisticated	Highly Competent	Fairly Competent	Not Yet Competent
Depth of analysis 30%	<p>Paper goes beyond the assignment to explore the assumptions or evidence in particularly thoughtful, insightful, and/or original ways.</p> <p>Paper shows a nuanced grasp of systems and critical thinking principles and the ability to apply these principles with facility.</p>	<p>Paper fully meets the parameters of the assignment but does not exceed them. (and/or...)</p> <p>Paper demonstrates a good grasp of principles but some awkwardness applying them.</p>	<p>Paper does not address some aspects of the assignment. (and/or...)</p> <p>Paper demonstrates a somewhat shaky grasp of principles.</p>	<p>Paper does not address the assignment. (and/or...)</p> <p>Paper is inconsistent with principles (i.e. it makes or fails to challenge technological or scientific assumptions.)</p>
Grasp of reading(s) and/or visual material 25%	<p>Paper represents the authors' arguments, evidence and conclusions accurately, fairly and eloquently. Demonstrates a firm understanding of the implications of the author's arguments.</p>	<p>Paper represents the author's arguments, evidence and conclusions accurately.</p>	<p>Paper represents the authors' arguments, evidence and conclusions accurately though not sufficiently clearly. (and/or...)</p> <p>There are minor inaccuracies.</p>	<p>Paper badly misrepresents the authors' arguments, evidence, and/or conclusions.</p>
Evidence 25%	<p>Evidence used to support the central point is rich, detailed and well chosen.</p> <p>Evidence sections employ appropriate illustrations and/or quotations.</p> <p>The connection between argument and evidence is clearly and compellingly articulated in all cases.</p> <p>(Where applicable) Important opposing evidence (i.e. evidence that might seem to contradict your argument) is considered and convincingly refuted.</p>	<p>Evidence used to support the central point is well chosen, though not particularly rich or detailed.</p> <p>The connection between argument and evidence is clearly articulated.</p> <p>(Where applicable) Some opposing evidence is considered and refuted.</p>	<p>Connection between argument and evidence is not clearly articulated in all cases. (and/or...)</p> <p>(Where applicable) Consideration of opposing evidence is cursory or the evidence is not convincingly refuted.</p>	<p>Evidence used does not clearly support the main argument. (and/or...)</p> <p>(Where applicable) Important opposing evidence is ignored, thereby weakening the central argument.</p>

<p>Organization 10%</p>	<p>Organization of paper as a whole is logical and quickly apparent.</p> <p>Connections among paragraphs are clearly articulated.</p> <p>Transitions between paragraphs are smooth.</p> <p>Every paragraph makes one distinct and coherent point, expressed in a clear topic sentence; the parts of each paragraph connect logically and persuasively, and internal transitions are smooth.</p>	<p>Organization of paper as a whole is logical and apparent, but transitions between paragraphs are not consistently smooth.</p> <p>Every paragraph makes one distinct and coherent point and, for the most part, the parts of each paragraph connect logically and effectively.</p> <p>In all but a few cases, the paragraph's point is expressed in a clear topic sentence.</p>	<p>Organization of the paper as a whole can only be discerned with effort.</p> <p>(and/or...)</p> <p>Not all parts of the paper fit the organizational structure.</p> <p>(and/or...)</p> <p>Not all the parts of the paper are effectively integrated. In a number of paragraphs, there is not a distinct or coherent point.</p> <p>(and/or)</p> <p>Topic sentences are missing or unclear in a number of paragraphs.</p> <p>(and/or)</p> <p>In a number of paragraphs, the parts do not connect logically.</p>	<p>Organization of the paper as a whole is not logical or discernable.</p>
<p>Writing and Mechanics 10%</p>	<p>Paper is clean and appropriately formatted.</p> <p>There are no incomplete or run-on sentences.</p> <p>Quotes are all properly attributed and cited.</p> <p>There are virtually no spelling or grammatical errors.</p>	<p>Paper is for the most part precisely worded and unambiguous.</p> <p>There are a few minor spelling or grammatical errors.</p> <p>Quotes are all properly attributed and cited.</p>	<p>There are a number of spelling and grammatical errors.</p> <p>(and/or)</p> <p>Sentence structure is often confusing.</p> <p>(and/or...)</p> <p>In a few places, quotes are not attributed and cited.</p>	<p>Paper is unacceptably sloppy.</p> <p>(and/or...)</p> <p>Quotes are frequently not attributed or improperly cited.</p> <p>(and/or...)</p> <p>Sentence structure is consistently confusing.</p>

Adapted from material developed by the Eberly Center at Carnegie Mellon University.