

Short Essay and Written Assignment Rubric

CRITERIA	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT Minimum Points	SATISFACTORY Medium Points	EXCEPTIONAL Maximum Points
CONTENT	The writer does not demonstrate cursory understanding of subject matter, and the purpose of the paper is not stated. The objective, therefore, is not addressed and supporting materials are not correctly referenced. <i>FEWER THAN 10 POINTS</i>	The writer demonstrates limited understanding of the subject matter in that theories are not well connected to a practical experience or appropriate examples, though the attempt to research the topic is evident, and materials are correctly referenced. <i>13 to 18 POINTS</i>	The writer demonstrates an understanding of the subject matter by clearly stating the objective of the paper and links theories to practical experience. The paper includes relevant material that is correctly referenced, and this material fulfills the objective of the paper. <i>20 Points</i>
ORGANIZATION	Paragraphs do not focus around a central point, and concepts are disjointedly introduced or poorly defended (i.e., stream of consciousness). <i>FEWER THAN 2 POINTS</i>	Topics/content could be organized in a more logical manner. Transitions from one idea to the next are often disconnected and uneven. <i>3 POINTS</i>	The writer focuses on ideas and concepts within paragraphs, and sentences are well-connected and meaningful. Each topic logically follows the objective. The introduction clearly states the objective or ideas leading to the purpose of the paper, and a conclusion draws the ideas together. <i>5 POINTS</i>
FORMAT	The paper does not conform to APA style. <i>FEWER THAN 2 POINTS</i>	The paper does not conform completely to APA style (e.g., margins, spacing, pagination, headings, headers, citations, references, according to the <i>APA Manual</i>). <i>3 POINTS</i>	The paper is correctly formatted to APA style (e.g., margins, spacing, pagination, headings, headers, citations, references, according to the <i>APA Manual</i>). <i>5 POINTS</i>
SPELLING, GRAMMAR, & PUNCTUATION	The writer demonstrates limited understanding of formal written language use; writing is colloquial (i.e., conforms to spoken language). Grammar and punctuation are consistently incorrect. Spelling errors are numerous. <i>FEWER THAN 2 POINTS</i>	The writer occasionally uses awkward sentence construction or overuses and/or inappropriately uses complex sentence structure. Problems with word usage (e.g., evidence of incorrect use of Thesaurus) and punctuation persist, often causing difficulties with grammar. <i>3 POINTS</i>	The writer demonstrates correct usage of formal English language in sentence construction. Variation in sentence structure and word usage promotes readability. There are no spelling, punctuation, or word usage errors. <i>5 POINTS</i>
CLARITY & STYLE	The writer struggles with limited vocabulary and has difficulty conveying meaning such that only the broadest, most general messages are presented. <i>FEWER THAN 2 POINTS</i>	Some words, transitional phrases, and conjunctions are overused. Ideas may be overstated, and sentences with limited contribution to the subject are included. <i>3 POINTS</i>	The reading audience is correctly identified, demonstrated by appropriate language usage (i.e., avoiding jargon and simplifying complex concepts appropriately). Writing is concise, in active voice, and avoids awkward transitions and overuse of conjunctions. <i>5 POINTS</i>