

Written Assignment Grading Rubric				
Criteria	Unacceptable	Minimally Acceptable	Good (Expected)	Excellent
Purpose	The purpose or argument is generally unclear.	The central purpose or argument is not consistently clear throughout the paper.	The writing has a clear purpose or argument, but may sometimes digress from it.	The writer's central purpose or argument is readily apparent to the reader.
Content	Central purpose or argument is not clearly identified. Analysis is vague or not evident. Reader is confused or may be misinformed.	Information supports a central purpose or argument at times. Analysis is basic or general. Reader gains few insights.	Information provides reasonable support for a central purpose or argument and displays evidence of a basic analysis of a significant topic. Reader gains some insights.	Balanced presentation of relevant and legitimate information that clearly supports a central purpose or argument and shows a thoughtful, in-depth analysis of a significant topic. Reader gains important insights.
Organization	The writing is not logically organized. Frequently, ideas fail to make sense together. The reader cannot identify a line of reasoning and loses interest.	In general, the writing is arranged logically, although occasionally ideas fail to make sense together. The reader is fairly clear about what writer intends.	The ideas are arranged logically to support the central purpose or argument. They are usually clearly linked to each other. For the most part, the reader can follow the line of reasoning.	The ideas are arranged logically to support the purpose or argument. They flow smoothly from one to another and are clearly linked to each other. The reader can follow the line of reasoning.
Feel	The writing has little personality. The reader quickly loses interest and stops reading.	The writing is dull and unengaging. Though the paper has some interesting parts, the reader finds it difficult to maintain interest.	The writing is generally engaging, but has some dry spots. In general, it is focused and keeps the reader's attention.	The writing is compelling. It hooks the reader and sustains interest throughout.
Tone	The tone is unprofessional. It is not appropriate for an academic research paper. It is conversational, filled with slang and inappropriate references.	The tone is not consistently professional or appropriate for an academic research paper. The writer occasionally uses conversational wording or slang.	The tone is generally professional. For the most part, it is appropriate for an academic research paper.	The tone is consistently professional and appropriate for an academic research paper.
Sentence Structure	Errors in sentence structure are frequent enough to be a major distraction to the reader.	Some sentences are awkwardly constructed so that the reader is occasionally distracted.	Sentences are well-phrased and there is some variety in length and structure. The flow from sentence to sentence is generally smooth.	Sentences are well-phrased and varied in length and structure. They flow smoothly from one to another.

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Word Choice	Many words are used inappropriately, confusing the reader.	Word choice is merely adequate, and the range of words is limited. Some words are used inappropriately.	Word choice is generally good. The writer often goes beyond the generic word to find one more precise and effective.	Word choice is consistently precise and accurate.
Grammar, Spelling, Writing Mechanics	There are so many errors that meaning is obscured. The reader is confused and stops reading.	The writing has many errors, and the reader is distracted by them.	There are occasional errors, but they don't represent a major distraction or obscure meaning.	The writing is free or almost free of errors.
Length	Paper too brief to adequately accomplish the assignment and does not meet the word count recommendation.	The paper leaves out issues or topics that should/could have been addressed, and is close to the recommend word count.	Paper is adequate in length for the topic and exceeds the word count recommendation	Paper is sufficient length to introduce and discuss the topic in detail.
References	The reader is confused about the source of information and ideas. References are seldom cited to support statements.	Although attributions are occasionally given, many statements seem unsubstantiated.	Professionally legitimate sources that support claims are generally present and attribution is, for the most part, clear and fairly represented.	Compelling evidence from professionally legitimate sources is given to support claims. Attribution is clear and fairly represented.
Quality of References	There are virtually no sources that are professionally reliable. The reader seriously doubts the value of the material and stops reading.	Most of the references are from sources that are not peer reviewed and have uncertain reliability. The reader doubts the accuracy of much of the material presented.	Although most of the references are professionally legitimate, a few are questionable (e.g., trade books, internet sources, popular magazines, ...). The reader is uncertain of the reliability of some of the sources.	References are primarily peer reviewed professional journals or other approved sources (e.g., government documents, agency manuals, ...). The reader is confident that the information and ideas can be trusted.
Paper Format	It appears as if no format was followed.	There are frequent errors and inconsistencies in the writing format, with errors and omissions in necessary elements like Name placement, page numbering, works cited page, etc.	The paper generally follows a standard format is used with minor errors.	A standard writing format is used accurately and consistently in the paper and on the "References" page.