

Topic Development	<p><b>20 pts Superior</b></p> <p>The student fully addresses the topic in his or her paper; the paper reflects a superior ability to understand and extrapolate on what has been read for class.</p>	<p><b>16 pts Above Average</b></p> <p>The student directly addresses the topic but does not do so thoroughly. Student does a good job of demonstrating an understanding of class readings.</p>	<p><b>12 pts Average</b></p> <p>The student addresses the topic but does not reflect a clear understanding of how to research topics in depth.</p>	<p><b>6 pts Below Average</b></p> <p>The student attempts to address the topic but does not do so completely. While the student has some understanding of the readings for class, there are more serious gaps in knowledge.</p>	<p><b>0 pts Needs Improvement</b></p> <p>Student makes no discernible attempt to address the topic. Topic is poorly developed and does not reflect the student having understood the readings for class.</p>	20 pts
Thesis and Introduction	<p><b>20 pts Superior</b></p> <p>Thesis provides a clear argument for the essay. It is insightful and provides a compelling point of view. The introduction draws the reader's attention to the thesis and fully introduces what will be covered in the essay.</p>	<p><b>16 pts Above Average</b></p> <p>The essay has a clear sense of thesis that guides the rest of the essay. The introduction provides a guide to what will be covered in the essay but is not as compelling and cohesive as it might be.</p>	<p><b>12 pts Average</b></p> <p>The essay has a thesis, but it may not be complete or may not be completely clear. The introduction introduces some, but not all, of the main elements of the essay.</p>	<p><b>6 pts Below Average</b></p> <p>The thesis is very hard to find and does not forecast the student's purpose in writing the essay. The introduction does not act as a guide for the essay. It may be more of a body paragraph than an introduction.</p>	<p><b>0 pts Needs Improvement</b></p> <p>No thesis is discernible. The introduction provides no sense of overall structure for the essay. The essay may simply begin with no thesis and no introduction.</p>	20 pts
Organization and Logic	<p><b>20 pts Superior</b></p> <p>The paper reflects a superior understanding of organization. Main body points are fully developed and build on one another. All body points support the thesis and provide compelling and interesting analysis, evidence, and/or examples.</p>	<p><b>16 pts Above Average</b></p> <p>The paper reflects a clear understanding of organizing main points to support the thesis. Ideas are developed but may lack completeness of thought in places or may not always provide compelling or insightful development.</p>	<p><b>12 pts Average</b></p> <p>The paper, overall, reflects an attempt at organizing and building on ideas but does not always succeed in doing so. Logical flaws and underdeveloped points are few in number.</p>	<p><b>6 pts Below Average</b></p> <p>Argument has more serious problems with logic and building the essay from one idea to the next. Argument fails to fully support the thesis.</p>	<p><b>0 pts Needs Improvement</b></p> <p>Argument is not well supported or well-reasoned. Main ideas are logically flawed and do not follow one into the other. Ideas are not presented with any discernible sense of purpose. Argument fails to support the thesis.</p>	20 pts

Use of Evidence	<p><b>20 pts Superior</b></p> <p>Student followed assignment instructions and used the required number of sources. Sources were fully integrated into the student's paper. Source ideas supported the student's own ideas without overtaking them. Sources were credible.</p>	<p><b>16 pts Above Average</b></p> <p>Student used the required number of sources. Sources are credible. Sources are not always smoothly integrated into the essay. Student attempts to make his or her ideas stand out.</p>	<p><b>12 pts Average</b></p> <p>Student used the required number of sources. Sources may have minor issues with credibility. Student displays some trouble integrating sources into the essay. Ideas found in sources sometimes dominate the student's own ideas.</p>	<p><b>6 pts Below Average</b></p> <p>Student did not use the required number of sources. Sources have serious credibility issues. Little effort is made to smoothly integrate sources. Sources are more dominant than the student's own ideas.</p>	<p><b>0 pts Needs Improvement</b></p> <p>Student did not use any sources at all, or used sources with no credibility at all. Quotes from sources are presented with no sense of context or purpose. Source ideas completely take over the student's own ideas. Please see the note about plagiarism in the assignment instructions.</p>	20 pts
Rhetorical Appeals	<p><b>20 pts Superior</b></p> <p>Student used ethos, pathos, and logos to further their argument. Appeals related well to the points being made.</p>	<p><b>16 pts Above Average</b></p> <p>Student uses rhetorical appeals, although there is not a mix of ethos, pathos, and logos.</p>	<p><b>12 pts Average</b></p> <p>Student employs some rhetorical appeals. Some may not be relevant to the point/claim being made.</p>	<p><b>6 pts Below Average</b></p> <p>Few rhetorical appeals used. Those appeals used don't relate to the claim.</p>	<p><b>0 pts Needs Improvement</b></p> <p>Student shows little understanding of rhetorical appeals and how to employ them to support claims.</p>	20 pts
Mechanics and MLA Formatting	<p><b>10 pts Superior</b></p> <p>Proper grammar and spelling were used throughout the assignment. Editing skills are evident. MLA format is followed, with only very minor errors.</p>	<p><b>8 pts Above Average</b></p> <p>Student makes a few mistakes in the essay, but they do not interfere with the reader's ability to get through the paper. Minor errors in MLA formatting are present.</p>	<p><b>6 pts Average</b></p> <p>The essay contains more frequent grammatical errors. MLA format contains only a few minor errors or one major error.</p>	<p><b>4 pts Below Average</b></p> <p>The essay is marked by frequent errors. Student does not have a firm control over editing and grammar. MLA formatting contains numerous minor or a few major errors.</p>	<p><b>0 pts Needs Improvement</b></p> <p>The essay is filled with grammatical errors that hamper readability. Student does not appear to have attempted editing at all. MLA format is unrecognizable, or student has used his or her own formatting style.</p>	10 pts

Length	<b>10 pts</b> <b>Superior</b> Paper met the minimum word count.	<b>0 pts</b> <b>Needs Improvement</b> Paper did not meet the minimum word count.	10 pts
			Total Points: 120