

1. Does your argument suggest an accurate understanding of the theories/theorists you cite?
2. Does your thesis actually make a claim that can be contested (e.g. no "learning about C. Wright Mills sure was interesting, in light of January 6th")?
3. Is your paper well-organized around supporting your thesis?
4. Is your thesis at all original – i.e. what do YOU bring to the paper beyond just rehashing things said in class?
5. Do errors in spelling or grammar make your paper hard to read and/or follow?

Note that this is NOT a research paper – of course you need to back up any non-obvious factual claims you make (ASA or APA style preferred), and you are welcome to bring in any other sources you find useful, but your course notes, textbook, and public news sources should be able to provide all the background/supporting data you really need.