

GRADING RUBRIC FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS[†]

	Substance	Style
A	Thesis is original and interesting. Paper recognizes the complexity of its thesis by acknowledging its contradictions or qualifications. Demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of sources. Copious, convincing evidence. The reader learns something new.	Immaculate, and a pleasure to read. Choose words for their precise meaning and uses an appropriate level of specificity. Sentences are varied, yet clearly structured and carefully focused. Contains few gratuitous elements. Gracefully guides the reader through a chain of reasoning or progression of ideas.
B	A solid paper, responding appropriately to assignment. Clearly states an original thesis that makes an argument. Shows careful readings of sources. Uses evidence appropriately and effectively, providing sufficient evidence and explanation to convince.	Very few errors. No problems with sentence structure. Generally uses words accurately and effectively. Sentences generally clear and focused. Each sentence clearly relates to the paragraph's central idea, and each paragraph clearly relates to the paper's central idea. Effective organization.
C	Adequate but weaker and less effective. Thesis is vague, unclear, or not explicit. Evidence does not entirely convince.	Contains several mechanical errors, which temporarily confuse the reader but do not impede understanding. Paragraphs might have an extraneous sentence, or paper might have an extraneous paragraph. Bumpy transitions might disrupt the paper's flow.
D	May present a central idea rather than a thesis. Evidence is not convincing. Connection between evidence and central idea not always clear.	Contains either many mechanical errors or a few important errors that do impede understanding. May have random organization, lacking internal paragraph coherence and using few or inappropriate transitions. Paragraphs lack main ideas, are too general or too specific, or are irrelevant to the thesis.
F	Does not respond to the assignment, or lacks a thesis or central idea, and may neglect to use sources where necessary.	Contains many important errors, or critical organizational problems.

[†] Adapted from rubrics created by UC Davis (English Department) and UC Berkeley (International and Area Studies)