

ESSAY PAPER GRADING RUBRIC

Dr. E. C. Buchholz

CATEGORY	UNACCEPTABLE (BELOW STANDARDS)	ACCEPTABLE (MEETS STANDARDS)	GOOD (OCCASIONALLY EXCEEDS)	EXCELLENT (EXCEEDS STANDARDS)	SCORE
Point Range:	35 points	40 points	45 points	50 points	
SUBJECT MATTER	Introduction does not convey topics, subtopics and thesis statement. Paper is not logically organized and lacks transitions between sentences and paragraphs. Sources are non-existent or not considered scholarly in nature. Conclusion does not reiterate and support thesis statement.	Introduction conveys a topic, vague subtopics, and a general thesis statement. Paper discusses topics and subtopics, but may be poorly organized; student attempts to provide transitions. Sources are not peer-reviewed but are generally acceptable. Conclusion does reintegrate key concepts and reinforces the thesis statement.	Introduction clearly conveys topic, subtopic, and a general thesis statement. Paper discusses topics and subtopics and is well organized with clear transitions. Sources contain some elements of support the thesis statement. Conclusion reflects a strong review of key ideas that clearly relate to the thesis statement.	Introduction strongly conveys topic, subtopics, and specific thesis statement. Paper clearly discusses topics and subtopics; it is strongly organized with transitions linking all topics. Sources contain only peer-reviewed, scholarly research. Conclusion strongly reflects key points and integrates these ideas in the thesis statement.	50 points
Point Range:	15 points	20 points	25 points	30 points	
GRAMMAR AND MECHANICS	Grammatical errors, punctuation errors, and spelling errors significantly interfere with reading the paper.	Few grammatical, spelling, and punctuation errors occur in the paper and do not interfere with reading the paper.	Grammatical, spelling, and punctuation errors occur rarely in the paper and do not interfere with reading the paper.	The paper is virtually free of grammatical, spelling, and punctuation errors.	30 points
Point Range:	5 points	10 points	15 points	20 points	
APA STYLE, CITATIONS, AND REFERENCES	APA style errors with page format interfere with the reading of the paper. Paper is informal in tone and word choice. Errors with or no in-text citations and/or Reference page citations significantly detract while reading.	APA style errors with page format are noticeable. Paper is occasionally informal in tone and word choice. Two sources are incorrectly written in either the in-text citations or on the References page.	APA style errors with page format are rare. Paper is written in a scholarly style. One source is incorrectly written in either the in-text citation or on the References page.	No APA errors are seen with page format. Paper is written in a scholarly style. All sources are correctly written in the in-text citation and on the References page.	20 points