

Item	Excellent (5)	Strong (4)	Marginal (3)	Weak (2)	Unsatisfactory (1)
Thesis Score ____	Central idea is clear, original and significant. Consistently clear focus throughout.	Central idea is worthy. Thesis clarity and consistency of focus in the writing is good.	Central idea is apparent but vague or trivial, or a worthy idea receives inconsistent focus.	Central idea is superficially presented or poorly maintained.	Lacks a discernible central idea.
Analytical Depth Score ____	Sophisticated use of definition, method, and evidentiary detail. Shows precision of thought and breadth of understanding.	Effective use of definition, method, and evidentiary detail Shows good thought and research effort.	Displays knowledge of subject but inconsistent analytical rigor or questionable methodical effectiveness.	Displays superficial knowledge of subject or poor analytical development.	Fails to develop a convincing analysis.
Organization Score ____	Sophisticated selection of evidence and method. Writing is consistently, logical, coherent, and easy to follow.	Good use of evidence and method. Writing is generally orderly and logical throughout.	Organization apparent, but problems of logic or consistency undermine clarity and persuasiveness.	Weak organizational strategy, or poor logical consistency and argumentative coherence.	Incoherent and ineffective evidentiary development.
Supporting Evidence/ Research Score ____	Shows substantial research effort and evidentiary breadth. Evidence is relevant and convincing throughout. Sources are documented accurately.	Shows good research effort and evidentiary breadth. Evidence is generally effective. Sources are documented accurately.	Shows research effort but contains faulty, irrelevant, or insufficient evidence; or fails to document sources effectively.	Lacks depth of research or evidentiary sufficiency or fails to document sources fairly and correctly.	Lacks supporting evidence, fails to document sources, or plagiarizes.
Usage & Mechanics Score ____	Presents sophisticated rhetorical appeal that includes clear and precise choices of language and structure.	Generally effective in form, with good use of language and structure.	Passingly clear, but inadequately attentive to grammar, language, or syntax.	Contains frequent errors in syntax and vocabulary that confuse meaning.	Contains serious syntax and grammar errors that obscure meaning.

Total ____

For each “item” in the left column score from 5 (highest) – 1 (lowest) and mark inside the box. Total these for the cumulative score.

For multiple papers instructors may wish to score each and divide the totals by the number of papers submitted.

Student Name: _____

Course Number: _____

Instructor: _____

Date: _____

Cumulative Score: _____ / of possible 25

(a minimum of 18 points required to pass)