

## Rubric for First Short Paper

**UNSATISFACTORY**

**COMPETENT**

**PROFICIENT**

**DISTINGUISHED**

## Rubric for Final Essay

### Content

Topic is not challenging and student appears to feel little enthusiasm for it. Student's understanding of the subject matter is incorrect or superficial. No particular demonstration of original thought.

Topic is reasonably engaging and student appears to have devoted some time and attention to investigating it. Student does demonstrate accurate understanding of the subject matter. Ideas presented are "on topic," but not particularly unique.

Topic is interesting and appropriate. Student demonstrates good understanding of and enthusiasm for the subject matter. There is some evidence of original thought.

Chosen topic is challenging and presents opportunity for in-depth research. Student obviously was very interested in developing his or her ideas beyond the superficial. Student demonstrates excellent understanding of the subject matter and contributes original thoughts and unique insights.

### Mechanics

Paper is less than 1200 words. There are numerous grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors. Student does not use Standard English, but relies on excessive use of slang expressions and Twitter-esque spelling. Quotations and images are not cited.

Paper meets minimum length requirements. There are relatively few grammatical, punctuation or spelling errors. Student uses Standard English, with little use of slang and no Twitter-esque spelling. Quotations and images are cited, although there may be some minor errors in citing.

Paper is at least 1200 words in length and may be longer if needed to adequately convey all thoughts. There are very few grammatical, punctuation or spelling errors. Student uses Standard English, with no use of slang or Twitter-esque spelling. All quotations and images are properly cited.

Paper is at least 1200 words in length and may be longer if needed to adequately convey all thoughts. There are no grammatical, punctuation or spelling errors. Student shows an expert command of Standard English with no use of slang or Twitter-esque spelling. All quotations and images are properly cited.

### References

Paper does not include all of the required references (minimum 1-2 references to class readings, 2 outside references) or the student makes reference to the readings, but is misapplying them or clearly does not understand them. References may not be cited.

The minimum number of references is included and they show correct understanding of the concepts. At least some effort has been made to properly identify the source of references and quotations. Integration of quotes/references into the text may be a little awkward.

The minimum number of references is included and they are properly cited using MLA, APA, Chicago Style Manual, etc. The student uses the references properly to support the points they are making in the paper. Integration of quotes/references into the content is smooth.

The minimum number of references is included and possibly more, as needed to support the student's arguments. Everything is properly cited using MLA, APA, Chicago Style Manual, etc. The quotes/references are elegantly integrated into the text, with graceful transitions.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Writing Skills</b></p>	<p>Paper is confusing, poorly organized and difficult to read. There is no clear thesis statement, nor topic sentences in each paragraph.</p>	<p>Paper is reasonably well organized and understandable. There is a logical progression of thought. Thesis statement and topic sentences could perhaps be stronger. Transitions may be a little awkward.</p>	<p>Paper is very well organized. Thesis statement and topic sentences in each paragraph are clear. There is logical and subtle sequencing of thoughts.</p>	<p>Paper is very well organized with a strong thesis statement and well-written topic sentences in each paragraph. There is logical and subtle sequencing of ideas through the use of well-developed paragraphs and transitions.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reflection &amp; Understanding</b></p>	<p>Student shows little awareness of their process. The work does not demonstrate understanding of course content.</p>	<p>Student shows basic understanding of course content, but thinking, reasoning and conclusions are at a superficial level.</p>	<p>Student shows solid understanding of course content. There is evidence of reflection and at least some original thought.</p>	<p>Work reflects a deep understanding of the complexities of the content. Student demonstrates an ability to not only understand the content, but to reflect upon and apply the concepts. There is evidence of original thought. The writing is purposeful and thoughtful.</p>