

Final Research Paper Evaluation Sheet

Final Course Grade: _____

Name: _____

Paper Evaluation: _____

Criterion	Superior	Good	Average	Poor	Unacceptable
Assignment Guidelines Followed					
The essay effectively meets the needs of the rhetorical situation in terms of establishing the writer's stance, attention to audience, purpose for writing, and sensitivity to context.					
The essay effectively meets the needs of the assignment guidelines.					
Thesis/Topic/Argument (Intellectual Development):					
The topic itself is clearly defined, focused, and supported.					
The essay has a clear thesis that is supported with specific (and appropriate) evidence, examples, and details.					
Outside sources of information are used carefully and cited appropriately in MLA format.					
The valid reasoning within the essay demonstrates good judgment and an awareness of the topic's complexities.					
Organization (Expressiveness & Intellectual Development):					
The organization—chronological, spatial, or emphatic—is appropriate for the purpose and subject of the essay.					
The introduction establishes a context, purpose, and audience for writing and contains a focused thesis statement.					
The following paragraphs are controlled by (explicit or implicit) topic sentences; they are well developed; and they progress logically from what precedes them. (If appropriate, headings and subheadings are used.)					
The conclusion moves beyond a mere restatement of the introduction, offering implications for or the significance of the topic.					
Style (Expressiveness):					
The prose is clear, readable, and sometimes memorable.					
It contains few surface errors, none of which seriously undermines the overall effectiveness of the paper for educated readers.					
It demonstrates fluency in stylistic flourishes (e.g., subordination, variation of sentence and paragraph lengths, interesting vocabulary).					

Final Research Paper Rubric—Detailed Explanation

Assignment Guidelines Followed:

A (SUPERIOR)

- _____ Demonstrates a familiarity with literary terms and theories in general and of the literary criticism of the primary text being analyzed and incorporates them smoothly into an argument
- _____ The writer's rhetorical stance is clearly articulated
- _____ Page guidelines met or exceeded without fluff or margin and font play; every word needed.

B (GOOD)

- _____ Shows a familiarity with literary terms and theories as well as related critical text, and incorporates them into an argument
- _____ The writer's rhetorical stance is clearly stated or implied
- _____ Page guidelines met or exceeded without fluff or margin and font play.

C (AVERAGE)

- _____ Demonstrates some familiarity with literary terms and theories as well as related critical text, but does not incorporate them clearly
- _____ The writer's rhetorical stance is implied but not clearly stated
- _____ Page guidelines met or exceeded without margin and font play, but some material may not be incorporated well.

D (POOR)

- _____ The paper displays little familiarity with literary terms, theories, or criticism
- _____ No rhetorical stance is articulated
- _____ Page guidelines nearly met, but material may not be incorporated well.

F (UNACCEPTABLE)

- _____ The paper displays no familiarity with literary terms, theories, or criticism
- _____ No rhetorical stance is apparent
- _____ Page guidelines not met.

Thesis/Topic/Argument (Intellectual Development):

A (SUPERIOR)

- _____ Insightful, cogent response to a literary text and the questions that the text raises
- _____ Reasoning is persuasive and supported by detailed, relevant examples
- _____ The central point or thesis is focused for a specific audience, clearly defined, and gracefully stated
- _____ Research is thorough, well documented, and effectively integrated into the text. Perfect MLA documentation

B (GOOD)

- _____ Provides a thoughtful, well-developed response to a literary text and the questions the text raises
- _____ Reasoning is sensible and supported by appropriate examples
- _____ The central idea or thesis is focused and clearly defined
- _____ There is clear evidence of research, but it not always appropriately used or effectively integrated into the text. Near perfect MLA citation

C (AVERAGE)

- _____ Presents a clear response to a literary text and the questions the text raises
- _____ Paper is developed with acceptable reasoning and adequate examples, but these examples are sometime sketchy, vague, or repetitious
- _____ The central point or thesis is apparent but not clearly stated
- _____ There is evidence of research, but it is not always appropriately used or effectively integrated into the text. Good MLA citation

D (POOR)

- _____ Responds to a literary text in an illogical and/or incomplete way
- _____ While some good examples are provided, for the most part the essay is underdeveloped
- _____ The central point or thesis is confusing, sometimes contradictory, and/or not explicitly stated
- _____ There is little evidence of research, and that is poorly documented and ineffectively used to develop the paper. Poor MLA citation

F (UNACCEPTABLE)

- _____ Presents a simplistic, inappropriate and/or incoherent response to a literary text
- _____ Examples are lacking or misused
- _____ The central point is not apparent
- _____ No research is evident. Unacceptable MLA citation

Organization (Expressiveness & Intellectual Development):

A (SUPERIOR)

- _____ Organization strategies (e.g., chronological, spatial, or emphatic; topic headings) are appropriate to the topic and consistently controlled
- _____ Paragraph breaks correspond to shifts in topic; paragraph topics are focused and clearly articulated; transitions are smooth and logical

B (GOOD)

- _____ Organizational strategies (e.g., chronological, spatial, or emphatic; topic headings) are appropriate to the topic and usually controlled
- _____ Paragraph breaks correspond to shifts in topic; the paragraph topics are usually focused; and transitions are attempted although they are sometimes weak or ineffective

C (AVERAGE)

- _____ Organizational strategies (e.g., chronological, spatial, or emphatic; topic headings) are usually controlled
- _____ Paragraph breaks usually correspond to shifts in topic; the paragraph topics are usually focused; some transitions are attempted but are weak or ineffective

D (POOR)

- _____ Organizational strategies (e.g., chronological, spatial, or emphatic; topic headings) are only partially in control and applied inconsistently
- _____ Paragraph breaks are arbitrary and paragraph topic are not always apparent; transitions are choppy

F (UNACCEPTABLE)

- _____ Organizational strategies are not apparent
- _____ Paragraph breaks are arbitrary and paragraph topic are not always apparent; transitions are lacking.

Style (Expressiveness):

A (SUPERIOR)

- _____ Original imagery may be used to convey thoughts and emotions
- _____ Ideas are expressed clearly and directly; sentences are varied and consistently well-constructed
- _____ Final draft is close to error-free

B (GOOD)

- _____ No original imagery is used, or imagery may be ineffective
- _____ Ideas are usually expressed clearly, but prose is characterized by a lack of directness and/or conciseness; occasionally imprecise word choice; little sentence variety; and occasional major and minor errors in grammar occur
- _____ Final draft has one section that may contain several errors but the majority of the paper is close to error-free

C (AVERAGE)

- _____ Imagery lacks effectiveness
- _____ Ideas are usually expressed clearly but the prose is characterized by a lack of directness and/or lack of conciseness; frequently imprecise work choice; little sentence variety; occasional major errors in grammar and frequent minor errors
- _____ Several sections of the final draft require final editing for errors

D (POOR)

- _____ Imagery is generally lacking and/or inappropriately used
- _____ The paper relies on summary rather than analysis
- _____ Most the final draft require final editing for errors

F (UNACCEPTABLE)

- _____ Imagery is generally lacking and/or inappropriately used
- _____ The paper relies on summary rather than analysis
- _____ The paper is riddled with errors