

Scoring Criteria: Response Papers

FORMAT & PRESENTATION

SCORE: ____ / 5

- ___ / 1 | Contains student's information, date, title.
- ___ / 2 | Follows the prescribed format (word-count, double-spacing, 12-point font-size, 1-inch margins, etc.).
- ___ / 2 | Reflects professionalism in its overall organization and presentation.

STRUCTURE

SCORE: ____ / 15

- ___ / 3 | Exhibits a centered **title** that orients the reader to the topic and perhaps even points to main argument; title is not generic.
- ___ / 3 | Introduction frames and contextualizes; leads reader carefully into the topic; progresses deliberately.
- ___ / 6 | Contains an engaging and deliberately composed **thesis** or **reflective statement/question** as appropriate to the assignment.
- ___ / 3 | Essay speaks to an implied reader and is written to hold that reader's attention.

ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SCORE: ____ / 15

- ___ / 5 | Organization is sequential and development is even.
- ___ / 5 | Paragraphs start with a topic sentence, tie in well with the thesis or controlling idea, and are well developed.
- ___ / 5 | Essay flows because of effective use of transitions and discourse markers (see *Handouts* tab on Moodle).

CONTENT

SCORE: ____ / 40

- ___ / 6 | Substantive, evidence-based, and generous elaboration of ideas; argument or discussion shows depth and originality.
- ___ / 6 | Ideas work together as a unified whole and support the thesis or reflective statement/question.
- ___ / 5 | Argument or discussion is sufficiently supported with appropriate sources that are documented in a works cited page.
- ___ / 6 | Essay makes meaningful connections/discoveries; shows strong critical reflection/thinking/analysis; shows awareness of other existing or possible perspectives and discusses them as appropriate.
- ___ / 6 | Essay is informative, insightful, and thought provoking.
- ___ / 3 | Reader is likely persuaded to consider or accept the essay's ideas and has no reason to question validity of information.
- ___ / 3 | Conclusion effectively synthesizes main points and ends on an insightful note.
- ___ / 5 | Overall satisfying and convincing treatment of topic through critical analysis, interpretation, and/or reflection.

READABILITY, MECHANICS, STYLE

SCORE: ____ / 25

- ___ / 5 | Demonstrates overall strong control of language with few if any mistakes in grammar and syntax (sentence structure).
- ___ / 3 | Uses broad range of vocabulary (including synonyms so as to avoid repetition).
- ___ / 3 | Each sentence is constructed using correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation; sentence-length is varied.
- ___ / 2 | Each sentence is clear, direct, and communicative.
- ___ / 2 | Active voice predominates over passive voice.
- ___ / 2 | Stays on point, does not divert from the subject nor stray too far from the thesis or central statement/question.
- ___ / 2 | Tone is objective, formal, professional; writer employs critical distancing; avoids words and phrases that convey or imply strong value judgments or prejudice.
- ___ / 2 | "I" used effectively but sparingly (e.g. I argue, I hold, I contend, I think, I relate, I (dis)agree, ~~I believe, I imagine, I want~~).
"You" and "we" are *never* used.
- ___ / 2 | Fluid, clear, cohesive, eloquent.
- ___ / 2 | Works cited page is formatted correctly following Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines.

TOTAL ____ / 100