

Writing Scoring Rubric

This rubric clearly identifies expectations for each of the specific criteria on which your formal writing will be evaluated.
The handout titled “Standards and Guidelines for Formal Writing” discusses these criteria in greater depth.

	62.5%	72.5%	82.5%	92.5%	100%
Assessment Criterion	Weak (1.0-1.5)	Competent (2.0-2.5)	Proficient (3.0-3.5)	Exemplary (4.0)	
Clarity/ Precision	argument is significantly weakened by much unclear, imprecise language or inappropriate diction	minimally use clear, precise language with appropriate diction to convey argument adequately	mostly use clear, precise language with appropriate diction to convey argument effectively	nearly always use clear, precise language with appropriate diction to convey argument effectively	
Logical Structure	argument is significantly weakened by unsound reasoning or logical fallacies	minimally use sound reasoning in argument	mostly use very sound reasoning in argument	nearly always use very sound reasoning in argument	
Analytical Depth	argument is superficial and lacks adequate depth; little thoughtful analysis	minimally achieve adequate depth in argument; sufficient thoughtful analysis	mostly achieve considerable depth in argument; mostly thoughtful analysis	nearly always achieve considerable depth in argument; very thoughtful analysis	
Quality of Supporting Evidence	argument lacks sufficient support due to little or no empirical evidence or ideas from credible scholars	minimally employ adequate empirical evidence and/or useful ideas from credible scholars to support argument	mostly employ strong empirical evidence and/or convincing ideas from credible scholars to effectively support argument	nearly always employ strong empirical evidence and/or convincing ideas from credible scholars to effectively support argument	
Overall Organization	argument lacks adequate coherence because of significant tangents, much unnecessary filler, or major gaps	minimally coherent argument with some nontrivial tangents, considerable unnecessary filler, or modest gaps	mostly coherent argument with only minor tangents, little unnecessary filler, or minimal gaps	very coherent argument with no tangents, little or no unnecessary filler, and no gaps	
Writing Quality*	argument is significantly weakened by poor writing quality	argument is merely sustained by adequate writing quality	argument is generally supported by good writing quality	argument is significantly strengthened by very high writing quality	

* Writing Quality components: spelling, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraph structure/organization, transitions between paragraphs, and citation of others' work