

Basic Requirements (40 points)

Page Length (15 points)

- Deduct up to 5 points if they start getting funny with spacing, margins, and it's obvious.
- Paper should be 6 pages of text. If over, that is ok. If under deduct up to five points per page short.

Sources cited properly and works cited included (15 points)

- MLA, Chicago, whatever format they want can be used so long as it is consistent
- Don't get too sticky here, especially with sources that are a little tougher to figure out how to cite
- Doc some points for papers that use almost entirely non-academic sources. Usually, it is obvious they just go to Wikipedia/Google and go to cites from there.

Structure includes clear introduction, body, and conclusion (10 points)

- They do not necessarily have to have section headings, but it should be discernable where the introduction ends, body starts, and conclusion begins.

Grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors (5 points)

- Deduct if you detect a pattern of sloppy mistakes, words used incorrectly, etc.

Quality of Paper (60 points)

Thesis and Argument (20 points)

- Articulate a well-reasoned argument for thesis statement
- How convincing is the argument?
- Quality of the argument, appropriate use of evidence, and reasonable conclusions.
- Ok to take an ultra-conservative/liberal perspective so long as the opinions flow from evidence/data, not b.s. websites spewing hatred.
- Doc points for no road map
- If thesis statement required (some papers are a little less thesis statement-oriented), doc points if you cannot detect discernable thesis statement

Appropriate Use of the Reading/Course Material (20)

- This will not always be relevant, depends on the question
- But, as much as possible, essay should be grounded in course readings
- Student should demonstrate knowledge of the material
- Deduct points for excessive use of block quotes (-10 points, 20 if extremely excessive (i.e., pretty much a block quote in 6 of 8 paragraphs, etc., that is no way to write a paper)

-Use of outside sources where appropriate. For many classes, students will be required to use outside sources (-10 points for over-reliance on ridiculous internet sources)

Organization and Quality of the Writing (20 points)

-Paper should be entirely motivated by a clear and articulate thesis. If student includes fluffy language/paragraphs that do not pertain to the thesis or help answer the question then deduct points

-Argument should progress in a logical and coherent manner. Deduct points if you detect wandering (i.e., where is this thing going?)

-Does the style flow well. Was redundancy avoided?

Score out of 100 _____

Score out of 35 (what the paper is worth in the whole class) _____

Comments: