

## Grading rubric for student writing samples

	<b>Very strong (4)</b>	<b>Strong, but could use improvement (3)</b>	<b>In need of a good deal of improvement (2)</b>	<b>Weak, in need of much improvement (1)</b>	<b>Evaluation (1-4, NA)</b>	
<b>Basic writing: Grammar, mechanics, basic usage, organization, and style</b>	There are very few (if any) errors with respect to grammar, mechanics, word choice, spelling, etc.	There are occasional minor errors of grammar, mechanics, and usage in the paper, or perhaps a singular instance of a more substantial one. Such minor errors have very little effect on the overall clarity and coherence of the paper.	There are noticeably many errors of grammar, mechanics, and usage, or a moderate number of more substantial errors. The errors have a detrimental effect on the clarity and coherence of the paper.	There are numerous errors, or there are several types of errors that occur repeatedly. The errors seriously compromise the coherence of the paper.		
	There are few (if any) awkward word choices, phrasing choices, or sentences.	There may be an occasional awkward sentence or phrase, but with little effect on the coherence of the point being made or on the paper overall.	There are a number of awkward sentences and/or phrases that negatively affect the paper's coherence.	There are errors resulting in terribly awkward sentences and phrasing.		
	The paper demonstrates a clear command of proper modes of expression for basic vocabulary.	There are isolated errors concerning proper modes of expression for basic vocabulary.	There are significant errors with respect to proper modes of expression for basic vocabulary.	The paper demonstrates little understanding of the proper modes of expression for basic vocabulary.		
	The paper has a very effective introduction, with a clear thesis and indication of the plan of the paper to follow.	The paper's introduction is effective, with a thesis and plan of the paper to follow, but either not clearly or with the inclusion of irrelevant material.	The paper's introduction includes a thesis, but either omits other necessary elements or includes excessive amounts of irrelevant material.	The paper either has no introduction, or it has no thesis or other necessary elements, or it is very unclear or includes excessive amounts of irrelevant material.		
	The paper is organized into clear and logically appropriate sections and subsections.	The paper is organized into clear and logically appropriate sections and subsections, though that organization is not perfectly clear.	The paper has identifiable sections and subsections, but not arranged in a clear and logical way.	The paper's sections and subsections are difficult to identify, and are not arranged in a logical way.		
	Individual paragraphs are structured properly around a single task or point for each.	Nearly all paragraphs are structured properly around a single task or point.	A significant number of paragraphs are not clearly structured around a single task or point.	Most or all paragraphs are poorly structured, with few of them having any clear point.		
	There are clear and appropriate transitions within and between sections.	A few transitions between and within sections are either missing or not all perfectly clear.	There are noticeably many missing, unclear, or inappropriate transitions.	Transitions are either largely ignored or are detrimental to making the paper's organization clear.		
	The paper is easy to follow and written in a clear and professional style.	The paper is fairly easy to follow, and generally is written in a clear and professional style.	The writing style and tone negatively affects the intelligibility of the paper.	The writing style seriously compromises the intelligibility of the essay.		
<b>Usage of terminology</b>	Properly-formatted in-text citations are provided where appropriate, with a properly-formatted list of references at the end.	Some in-text citations and/or entries in the references list are missing or improperly formatted.	There are significantly many errors with respect to the paper's in-text citations and/or the list of references.	The paper shows little or no understanding of the proper use of in-text citations. A list of references may be missing.		
	The paper demonstrates a clear command of the proper use of technical terminology relevant to the subject matter of the paper.	There are isolated errors concerning the use of technical terminology.	There are significant errors in the use of technical terminology.	The paper demonstrates little or no understanding of the proper use of technical terminology.		

	The paper demonstrates a clear command of the proper use of basic, non-technical terminology relevant to philosophy and argumentation.	There are isolated errors concerning the use of basic terminology of philosophy and argumentation.	There are significant errors in the use of the basic terminology of philosophy and argumentation.	The paper demonstrates little or no understanding of the proper use of the basic terminology of philosophy and argumentation.		
<b>Exposition of views and arguments of others</b>	All views discussed are presented accurately and clearly.	There are isolated errors in the accuracy and clarity of the views discussed.	There are noticeable and significant errors in the accuracy and clarity of the views discussed, with a negative effect on other elements of the paper.	The views discussed are barely intelligible.		
	Every argument discussed in the paper is clearly stated, with a clear logical structure, and with an appropriate level of detail.	Some arguments discussed are somewhat unclear or incompletely stated.	Many of the arguments discussed are unclear or incompletely stated.	The arguments discussed are very unclear, largely incomplete, or barely intelligible.		
	Supporting arguments are stated where necessary.	More exposition of relevant supporting arguments is necessary.	Exposition of relevant supporting arguments is largely ignored.	Relevant supporting arguments are ignored.		
	The views and arguments presented are relevant to the paper's overall thesis.	Nearly all views and arguments discussed are relevant to the overall thesis.	Many arguments discussed in the paper are irrelevant to the overall thesis.	The arguments discussed are irrelevant to the overall thesis.		
<b>Presentation of the <u>author's</u> views and arguments for them</b>	All of the author's views are presented accurately and clearly.	There are isolated errors in the accuracy and clarity of the presentation of the author's views.	There are noticeable and significant errors in the accuracy and clarity of the author's views, with a negative effect on other elements of the paper.	The author's own views are barely intelligible.		
	The author's own arguments are clearly stated, with a clear logical structure and with an appropriate level of detail.	The author's own arguments are clear, but could be put more clearly and/or with a greater level of detail.	The author's arguments are not stated clearly and/or with the appropriate level of detail.	The author's arguments are very unclear or barely intelligible.		
	Supporting arguments are given where necessary.	More supporting arguments are needed, or they require more detail.	Supporting arguments are barely considered where necessary.	Supporting arguments are not provided where necessary.		
	Relevant objections are considered where appropriate.	Objections are either not considered in enough detail, or the paper ignores stronger, more obvious objections.	Objections are either not considered in detail, or the paper ignored stronger, more obvious objections.	Relevant objections are not considered at all, or they receive very little attention.		
	The author's views and arguments are relevant to the paper's overall thesis.	Nearly everything discussed is relevant to the overall thesis.	Some of the author's views and arguments given are irrelevant to the overall thesis.	The author's arguments are irrelevant to the overall thesis.		
<b>Criticism of views and arguments of others</b>	The author's own criticism(s) are clearly stated, with a clear logical structure and with an appropriate level of detail.	Some of the author's criticism(s) are somewhat unclear or incompletely stated.	The author's criticism(s) are not stated clearly and/or with the appropriate level of detail.	The author's criticism(s) are barely intelligible or hardly stated at all.		
	Supporting arguments are given where necessary.	More supporting arguments are needed, or they require more detail.	Supporting arguments are barely considered where necessary.	Supporting arguments are not provided where necessary.		
	Relevant objections to the author's criticism are considered where appropriate.	Relevant objections are either not considered in enough detail, or the paper ignores stronger, more obvious objections.	Relevant objections are either not considered in detail, or the paper ignores stronger, more obvious objections.	Relevant objections are not considered, or they receive very little attention.		

	The author's criticism(s) are relevant to the paper's overall thesis.	Nearly everything related to the author's criticism(s) is relevant to the paper's overall thesis.	Some of the author's criticism(s) are irrelevant to the paper's overall thesis.	The paper either fails to criticize the views and arguments of others as required, or the author's criticisms are irrelevant to the paper's overall thesis.		
<b>Research skills</b>	The paper successfully integrates research into the paper's content.	The paper either misses some opportunities for successful integration of research, or the paper uses somewhat too much research for its content.	Many opportunities for integrating research are neglected, or the paper's content uses too much research material.	The paper shows little or no integration of research into the paper's content.		
	In all cases, the paper uses sources of the type(s) appropriate for the assignment.	Some of the paper's sources are not of the type(s) appropriate for the assignment.	Many of the paper's sources are not of the type appropriate for the assignment, or some sources are especially inappropriate.	Most or all of the paper's sources (if any) are inappropriate for the assignment.		

**Comments:**