

Grading Rubric for College-level Writing

	Descriptors Upper Half			Descriptors Lower Half		
	4 Able (B)	5 Skilled (A-)	6 Masterful (A+)	3 Developing (C)	2 Novice (D)	1 Neophyte (F)
Understand and Commit to Assignment Score: _____	Demonstrates adequate understanding of the writer's task while persuading reader of writers commitment	and responds to the full range of issues raised by the prompt	and demonstrates exceptional insight into the topic.	Fails to understand fully the writer's task	and may lapse in response to the prompt	and lacks commitment to the task or fails to address the prompt.
Establish a Writer's Presence Score: _____	Establishes an appropriate writer's presence	and establishes a strong sense of the writer's voice or authenticity	and uses this voice in an authoritative or innovative manner.	Establishes an inappropriate or tenuous writer's presence	or fails to establish a coherent writer's presence	or uses an inauthentic voice that jeopardizes credibility.
Communicate with Audience Score: _____	Demonstrates communicative awareness of an educated audience outside the discipline	and communicates proficiently with this audience	and is able to communicate complex ideas effectively to this audience.	Demonstrates unsatisfactory awareness of an audience outside the discipline	and fails to communicate this to the audience	and does not consider audience at all.
Argument Development/ Analysis Score: _____	Clarifies major aims, arranges material to support aims, and provide enough material to satisfy expectations of readers	and arranges material to create confidence in readers	and may show insight into problematic or provocative aspects of the topic, or generate a unique stance or original taxonomy.	Does not always make major aims clear, arrange material to support aims, or provide enough material to satisfy expectations of readers	and confuses readers about its major aims or develops no major point adequately	and may persuade readers that it has no major aims or provides little or no relevant material.
Command of Topic/ Coherence Score: _____	Moves beyond summary into analysis and demonstrates critical engagement in the topic	and demonstrates complex critical engagement with material or formulates innovative relationships between ideas	and is able to theorize and conceptualize abstract ideas or draw additional implications.	Summarizes material but lapses in critical analysis or is unable to demonstrate the interrelatedness of ideas	and is unaware of connections or lacks critical engagement with material	and is unable to examine material coherently.
Control of Mechanics/ Language Score: _____	Controls sentence level features of written language, including grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage	and shows mature command of these features, particularly as regards clarity and precision	and exhibits mastery of these features in an especially effective or innovative rhetorical style.	Loses control of one or more elements of written language at the sentence level (grammar, spelling, punctuation, usage), but without significantly impeding communication	or fails to acknowledge the conventions of standard written English, thereby impeding the communication process	and may be unable to communicate any meaning at all.

Overall Grade: _____ Comments: