

	1	2	3	4	5	Weight	
Development	Introduction	The topic and its relevance to the larger subject area and the overall challenge are appropriately introduced. The introduction elegantly lays the groundwork for the direction of the paper.	The overall problem, challenge, or topic to be examined is addressed in the introduction. The introduction adequately lays the groundwork for the direction of the paper.	The introduction somewhat addresses the overall problem, challenge, or topic to be examined, but does not go much beyond a structural overview of the paper.	The introduction inadequately addresses the overall problem, challenge, or topic to be examined and/or merely gives a structural overview of the paper.	There is no reference to the topic, problem, or audience in the introduction and/or there is no indication of the direction of the paper.	45,0%
	Argument	Thesis statement is thoroughly supported by evidence, examples, observations, and apt citation	Thesis statement is supported by evidence and appropriate citations	Thesis statement is supported by evidence and citations	There is an attempt to support the thesis statement by some evidence and citations.	Thesis statement is unevenly or illogically supported and citations are less than apt	
	Focus	All information serves a clear purpose and supports the main claim.	Information provided generally serves to support the main claim.	Most information supports the main claim, but there is some lapses in focus.	Some of the information is extraneous and does not relate to the main claim.	Much of the information is extraneous and does not relate to the main claim	
	Conclusions	Extends conclusions to address implications and consider ambiguities	Conclusions are logical based on arguments and evidence presented	Conclusions are somewhat based on arguments and evidence presented.	Conclusions only loosely follow from arguments and evidence presented and/or are overly general.	Fails to identify conclusions or conclusions presented are simplistic or absolute	
Critical Thinking	Originality	Thesis statement advances an original interpretation or perspective	Thesis statement is somewhat original and/or goes significantly beyond the self-evident	Thesis statement is overly general but makes an arguable claim that goes beyond the self-evident	Thesis statement is too general to be adequately supported within the scope of the paper, and/or is too self-evident to be truly engaging.	Thesis statement is trite, self-evident or completely absent	30,0%
	Scholarship	Engages in the scholarly conversation and defends an original perspective using references to scholarly work in the area.	Engages in the scholarly conversation through adequate references to scholarly work in the area.	Somewhat engages in the scholarly conversation through some references to scholarly work in the area.	Does not engage successfully with the scholarly conversation in the subject area and/or presents a patchwork of quotations.	Does not present an adequate array of scholarly ideas	
Organization	Document design	Document design facilitates understanding and respects rhetorical conventions in the field	Demonstrates awareness of document design appropriate for the intended reader	Facilitates understanding but has occasional lapses	Tries to facilitate understanding but has frequent lapses	Shows little attempt to guide the reader through the document	15,0%
	Paragraph Construction	All paragraphs are unified, coherent and well developed (see link below).	Most paragraphs are unified, coherent and well developed.	Paragraphs included related information but were typically not constructed well.	Many of the paragraphs do not have a clear structure and sentences were not typically related within the paragraphs.	Most of the paragraphs do not have a clear structure and sentences were not typically related within the paragraphs.	
	Transitions	Transitions between ideas enhance the presentation in paragraphs and subsections	Order of ideas in paragraphs and subsections is easy to follow	Order of ideas in sections and paragraphs is apparent but occasionally difficult to follow	Order of ideas in sections and paragraphs is usually difficult to follow	There is no apparent order of ideas in sections and paragraphs	
Language	Vocabulary and Syntax	Fluent, with a sophisticated vocabulary and varied syntax	Fluent, with sound word choice and standard syntax	Some problems with word choice and sentence structure	Frequent problems with word choice and sentence structure	Incorrect word choice or syntax often interferes with meaning	5,0%
	Grammar, spelling	Grammar, punctuation, and spelling are correct	Grammar, punctuation, and spelling are typically correct	A few grammar, punctuation, or spelling errors throughout	Frequent grammar, punctuation, or spelling errors throughout	Grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors are prominent	5,0%
Mechanics	Style sheet	Follows Style Sheet conventions carefully (see link below)	Style Sheet conventions are followed	Style Sheet conventions are followed most of the time	Some Style Sheet conventions are followed	Little or no attempt to follow Style Sheet conventions	100,0%

Adapted and expanded from: "Prescott College Graduate (SGC) Research Paper Description;" Stella Porto, "Sample Rubric for Grading a Term Paper," University of Maryland;

For the MLA style see: <http://www.docstyles.com/archive/mlastudy.pdf>

For paragraph construction see: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/606/01/>