

PSU Graduate Academic Writing Rubric

Course Number and Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Essential Elements	1 Misses Target	2 Does Not Meet Standard	3 Approaching Target	4 On Target	5 Completely Meets Standard	6 Exemplary	SCORE
<b>Purpose</b>	Lacks purpose	Unclear purpose	Limited expression of purpose	Purpose is clearly expressed	Purpose is clearly expressed and is justified	Purpose is clearly expressed; data is integrated	
<b>Development</b>	Inappropriate response to thesis, or lacks thesis; no topic development	Undeveloped or vague thesis, theme or topic	Rudimentary development of thesis, theme or topic; limited in depth or clarity	Good development of thesis, theme or topic; conclusion is more than a summary	Fully developed thesis, theme or topic; writer draws a conclusion	Fully developed, original, insightful thesis, theme or topic & conclusion	
<b>Content/Sources</b>	Writer has not included appropriate content and/or sources	Writer has used limited resources, &/or has relied on non-refereed sources	Writer has used limited, though appropriate, resources	Writer has used sufficient, appropriate sources to support thesis, theme or topic	Writer has used significant primary source material to support thesis, theme or topic	Writer has integrated and synthesized significant primary source material	
<b>Details</b>	Virtually no relevant details	Few relevant details	Details lack elaboration; important details omitted	Details are adequate & relevant	Details are specific & enhance development	Rich supporting details	
<b>Organization</b>	Lacks organization	Unclear organizational strategy	Organizational strategy includes transitions	Logical progression of ideas	Logical & controlled organization from beginning to end; non-formulaic	Writer expresses relationships among ideas; careful & subtle organization	
<b>Sentences</b>	Many fragments, fused sentences &/or run-ons	Poor sentence structure	Complete sentences	Complete sentences; some sentence variety	Sentence variety & patterns are appropriate for style & effect	Sentence variety & patterns are used to enhance style & effect	
<b>Word Choice</b>	Extremely limited vocabulary	Limited vocabulary	Appropriate vocabulary	Effective diction	Varied, precise diction	Sophisticated diction	
<b>Grammar, Usage, Mechanics</b>	Errors in grammar, usage & mechanics interfere with communication	Errors in grammar, usage & mechanics are distracting	Errors in grammar, usage & mechanics are disproportionate to length & complexity of piece	Some errors in grammar, usage & mechanics but they do not distract significantly from the overall quality of the piece	Few or no errors in grammar, usage or mechanics	Mastery of grammar, usage & mechanics	
<b>Required Style, Format, Reference List (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.)</b>	Errors in citations, formatting & writing interfere with communication, or work	Errors in citations, formatting & writing are distracting	Several errors in citations, formatting & writing, &/or errors appear to be careless	Few errors in the application of required writing style, format, citations	No errors in the application of the required style in any part of the	Mastery of all applicable style requirements throughout the work.	

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	contains plagiarized content			&/or reference list	paper		
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This rubric has been developed for use by students as they craft their written work and by instructors as they assess student work. This rubric does not supersede instructions provided by instructors or contained on syllabi. Students should consult with their instructors to be sure they understand expectations and requirements for all written work, including the required style guide.