

	A-level work: Exceptionally strong	B-level work: Good work with room to improve	C-level work: Minimally adequate	D-level work: Poor
Content	<p><i>Shows mastery of all pertinent materials that is exceptional for students at this level.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensively answers the prompt. <input type="checkbox"/> Develops and supports sophisticated arguments with the best evidence. <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs mix various types of evidence (short quotes, data, & examples) from all relevant sources. 	<p><i>Shows an understanding of and engages the course materials, including the most relevant readings.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Presents evidence and examples in every paragraph. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses readings and class materials to support all arguments. <input type="checkbox"/> All content is relevant to the essay topic, and the essay answers the whole prompt. 	<p><i>Limited or uneven use of course materials. Common issues include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hard to tell how closely some/most of the relevant reading assignments have been reviewed. <input type="checkbox"/> Major arguments are underdeveloped or not defended with class materials. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses insufficient or irrelevant examples. <input type="checkbox"/> Some of the paper's content is not linked to the essay topic or only part of the prompt is addressed. 	<p><i>Falls far short of college-level expectations.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Inaccurately represents important facts. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows no evidence of having reviewed the relevant class materials or readings. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses poor, few, or no examples; random evidence/quotes are used if at all. <input type="checkbox"/> Does not address the prompt.
Analysis	<p><i>Makes compelling original arguments and supports them with the best evidence</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The synthesis & evaluation of readings are sophisticated and go well beyond class discussion or directly replicating reading arguments. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses strong evidence and logic to support all arguments. <input type="checkbox"/> Each paragraph develops arguments logically with nuanced argumentation. 	<p><i>Shows some originality and makes strong arguments with adequate evidence.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Arguments are well-developed, organized, and defended with logic & evidence. <input type="checkbox"/> The student's voice and logical argumentation add much to the paper's ideas. <input type="checkbox"/> The essay synthesizes arguments and evidence from different sources rather than just summarizing assigned readings one after the other. 	<p><i>The writing, organization, & evidence show modest contemplation by the author. Common issues include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly just reproduces arguments from readings/class with little nuance or additional insight. <input type="checkbox"/> Presents arguments that are not well developed or supported with good evidence and logic. <input type="checkbox"/> Very limited engagement of the ideas and evidence from the relevant course materials and readings. 	<p><i>Falls far short of college-level expectations.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Deficient or inaccurate explanations of the most relevant concepts, ideas, and arguments. <input type="checkbox"/> Although they are cited properly, most or all of the ideas are not the student's own and are poorly stated at best. <input type="checkbox"/> The paper shows no evidence that class materials or relevant readings have been completed (the purpose of most assignments in my classes is to analyze and synthesize the relevant material).
Organization	<p><i>There is a strong thesis, and the rest of the paper is developed systematically around it. The paragraphs are well organized, too.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The thesis statement answers the prompt, and the paragraphs that defend the thesis are sequenced logically. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses effective, elegant topic sentences. <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraph length is appropriate. <input type="checkbox"/> Has a clear and logical focus throughout the paper and within all paragraphs. 	<p><i>Makes a coherent and easy-to-follow argument with small issues.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Easy to follow the author's main ideas, and it is clear why most paragraphs are where they are. <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally wanders from the central thesis and/or topic sentences within paragraphs. <input type="checkbox"/> Some issues with the focus of individual paragraphs or the logical ordering of arguments in the paper as a whole. 	<p><i>The organization makes the paper's logic hard to follow. Common issues include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lacks a strong thesis statement or effective topic sentences. <i>For help in this area, review my online handout on improving papers' organization grades (follow the "Student Resources" link).</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Paper wanders from the argument noted in the intro. <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs are not focused tightly on their main points or that of the essay. <input type="checkbox"/> There is a series of disparate points in the paper rather than a logical, interconnected set of arguments. 	<p><i>Falls far short of college-level expectations.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pays little/no attention to developing a logical, focused argument throughout the paper. <input type="checkbox"/> Lacks a thesis statement/effective topic sentences. <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraph breaks are random or missing; paragraphs are excessively long.
Clarity	<p><i>Writing throughout the essay is consistently and exceptionally elegant and clear.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The wording is precise and sophisticated. <input type="checkbox"/> Phrasing is smooth and elegant. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses transitions carefully. <input type="checkbox"/> Fully integrates evidence and quoted material in a way that is stylistically similar to assigned readings. 	<p><i>Writing is comprehensible but not consistently elegant.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes careless in phrasing, word selection, transitions, syntax, or grammar make some of the writing unclear or awkward. <input type="checkbox"/> Many sentences could be rewritten in ways that would make the ideas and logical development of paragraphs clearer and/or more elegant. 	<p><i>The writing is hard to follow. Common issues include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Issues with grammar and phrasing make the writing difficult to follow. <input type="checkbox"/> Issues with the logical flow of arguments and transitions between ideas within paragraphs make the argument hard to follow. <input type="checkbox"/> The paper's overly casual tone, wordiness, or faux-sophistication distracts from what the author is trying to say. 	<p><i>Falls far short of college-level expectations.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The phrasing or structure of ideas is difficult to follow; most paragraphs require re-reading to be understood. <input type="checkbox"/> Wildly excessive quotation (even when properly cited) means that much of the writing is not the student's work.
Grammar & proofing	<p><i>Exceptional attention to detail.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Has been meticulously proofread to ensure polished wording and elegance <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently uses excellent grammar 	<p><i>Good to very good work.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The essay has been proofread but has small grammar or phrasing glitches on most pages. 	<p><i>Adequate work, but proof/cite much more carefully next time.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Many grammar/phrasing issues undermine readability; commas or semi-colons are used incorrectly. If used carefully, the free version of Grammarly will help you to learn to identify and fix common grammar issues & malapropisms. <input type="checkbox"/> Inconsistently cites material, lacks page-specific cites, or has extensive and obvious problems with bib./cites formatting. 	<p><i>Falls far short of college-level expectations.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not appear to have been proofread. <input type="checkbox"/> Little regard for correct capitalization or punctuation. <input type="checkbox"/> Does not cite material or <input type="checkbox"/> lacks a bibliography. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses or cites none/just a fraction of the most relevant sources.
Citation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete and properly formatted citations and bib.; most applicable sources are all used and cited with page-specific references. Cites appear everywhere where they need to be. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Works are cited when they should be, but there are modest citation formatting errors; small errors in cites/bib punctuation or their format. 	<p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p><i>For help in this area, review my online handout on when/how to cite (follow the "Student Resources" link).</i></p>	

Name: _____ Assignment: _____ Final Grade: _____

Comments: _____