

CSCI 410, Senior Seminar: Writing Rubric

Criterion	Excellent (3)	Good (2)	Acceptable (1)	Unacceptable (0)
Abstract	Abstract provides a concise and complete summary of the paper; tells the story of the paper in miniature.	Abstract summarizes the paper but not in an engaging/narrative way.	Abstract contains relevant information but does not adequately summarize the paper.	Abstract is missing or unclear.
Introduction	The introduction is engaging, states the main topic and previews the content of the paper.	The introduction states the main topic and previews the content of the paper.	The introduction states the main topic but does not adequately preview the content of the paper.	There is no clear introduction or main topic is missing.
Background	Background clearly and completely presents additional information, terminology, results, and/or history necessary to understand the main problem/question and the remainder of the paper.	Background presents additional information, terminology, results, or history necessary to fully understand the problem or question and the remainder of the paper.	Background presents some additional information necessary to understand the rest of the paper, but some needed information is missing.	There is no background section, or it does not present information necessary for understanding the rest of the paper.
Paragraph development	Each paragraph has thoughtful supporting detail sentences that develop the main idea.	Each paragraph has sufficient supporting detail sentences that develop the main idea.	Paragraphs state a main idea but lack supporting detail sentences.	Paragraphs fail to develop the main idea.
Detail/evidence	Examples and explanations are used to develop main ideas and generalities; objective evidence correctly documented	Supporting details logically relate to the central idea; presents thoughtful ideas that need further development	Some supporting details, but may not be as fully developed as necessary to present a convincing and logical argument that is unified and coherent	Detail/supporting arguments lacking.
Organization	Writer demonstrates logical and subtle sequencing of ideas through well-developed paragraphs; transitions are used to enhance organization.	Paragraph development present but not perfected.	Logical organization; organization of ideas not fully developed.	No evidence of structure or organization.

Conclusion	Definitive conclusion which reaffirms central idea or purpose, conclusion clearly supported by main points.	Coherent summarization of central idea or purpose.	Conclusion present, but lacks support or is not coherent.	No conclusion, or too incomplete to be effective.
Tone/level	Language, tone, and technical content are consistent with author's purpose and technical content is appropriate for intended audience	Author's tone, level and language are appropriate and consistent	Tone, level and language is generally consistent and appropriate to subject and audience	Tone, level and language is inconsistent and/or inappropriate for subject and audience
Citations	Includes all appropriate citations. All cited works are done in the correct format with no errors.	Includes all appropriate citations. Most cited works are done in the correct format; inconsistencies evident.	Includes most appropriate citations, possibly with a few missing. Some are not in the correct format.	Many missing citations, or citations not in the correct format.
Bibliography	Includes appropriately formatted bibliography, with an appropriate number of sources.	Includes a bibliography, but may have small formatting issues or include too few sources.	Bibliography exists but is too limited or incorrectly formatted.	No bibliography.
Mechanics	No errors in punctuation, capitalization and spelling.	Almost no errors in punctuation, capitalization and spelling.	Many errors in punctuation, capitalization and spelling.	Numerous and distracting errors in punctuation, capitalization and spelling.
Usage	No errors in sentence structure and word usage.	Almost no errors in sentence structure and word usage.	Many errors in sentence structure and word usage.	Numerous and distracting errors in sentence structure and word usage.
Format	Paper is excellently typeset.	Paper is typeset well, possibly with a few minor issues.	Paper is typeset acceptably, with a few bigger issues.	Paper has many typesetting issues.

Adapted from:

- <http://users.dickinson.edu/~wahlst/332/writing/rubric.pdf>
- <https://www.cte.cornell.edu/documents/Science%20Rubrics.pdf>
- http://cs.salemstate.edu/dept/uploads/2_RubricWriting.pdf