

Grading Standards: Composition

1= Very Weak 2= Weak 3= Adequate 4= Strong 5= Very Strong

Rhetoric

Thesis: (+) a thoughtful, perceptive, and focused generalization; a point worth making; a clear plan for development

(-) vague or common place statements; topic needs to be narrowed

1 2 3 4 5

Unity: (+) maintenance of focus; each paragraph relates to the thesis; key terms have been defined; thorough explanations

(-) insufficient explanation; straying from main point

1 2 3 4 5

Coherence: (+) logical order; effective use of transition words and statements

(-) abrupt and unexplained transitions; difficult to see connection between ideas

1 2 3 4 5

Completeness: (+) solid evidence; specific and concrete details; relevant examples

(-) insufficient development due to lack of quotes, facts, examples, details

1 2 3 4 5

Style and Diction

Persona & Readability: (+) engaging voice and tone sentence variety; parallel structure; appropriate vocabulary; clarity of expression

(-) distracting or untrustworthy voice; awkward sentence structure; wordiness; inaccurate word choices; confusing word order

1 2 3 4 5

Individuality: (+) independent thinking; freshness; lively and varied vocabulary

(-) stereotyped thinking; truisms; clichés; received ideas; lack of analysis

1 2 3 4 5

Editing

Grammar: (+) error-free sentences; correct usage

(-) fragment, run-ons, comma splices, improper verb forms, pronoun-antecedent agreement

1 2 3 4 5

Punctuation: (+) correct usage

(-) commas, quotation marks, possessive apostrophes, semicolons, capitalization

1 2 3 4 5

Spelling: (number of errors: _____)

1 2 3 4 5

Manuscript form: (+) typed; double-spaced; standard margins

(-) not typed or poorly typed; nonstandard format

1 2 3 4 5