

Grading Rubric					
	A	B	C	D	F
Argument	Specific, Clear, Relevant, Structured, Insightful. Shows O, C, and S.	Misses one feature of an "A" argument (most often "insight") C or S, not clear or specific.	May miss some features of an "A" thesis, but still gets point across. Has O, C and S, but not precise.	Lacks one or more features of "A" or "B" thesis.	Lacks one or more features of "A" or "B" thesis. O, C and S not identifiable at all.
Precision	Directly addresses the assignment by arguing for a convincing, insightful interpretation of the events; based on nuanced understanding of ideas discussed in readings and in class; defines terms, gives relevant examples, concise/relevant summary; anticipates the readers' need for information, explanation and context	Holds the reader's attention and exceeds the basic demands of the assignment, arguing for a reasonably convincing and insightful interpretation of the events; addresses audience with a clear purpose; based on nuanced understanding of the concepts; performs some of the aspects of the "A" analysis	Meets the basic demands set forth in the assignment by arguing for a somewhat convincing interpretation of the events; presents an adequate response to the essay prompt; not too much imprecise generalization; analysis maintains some focus; performs at least one aspect of the "A" paper analysis	Does not convey a clear and convincing understanding of the events; misreading; mostly generalizations; poses irrelevant questions, incorrectly defines terms, irrelevant examples, or poor summary and paraphrasing; unresponsive to the specific writing situation; shows difficulties communicating through academic writing	Fails to meet the minimum standards for the assignment; presents subjective or irrelevant information; shows a lack of basic understanding of concepts, shows severe difficulties with language
Structure	Each paragraph has a particular focus and cohesively develops a specific point; reader can easily follow logical progression of thought	Majority of paragraphs have a particular focus and cohesively develop a specific point; reader can follow logical progression of thought	At least half the paragraphs have a particular focus and cohesively develop a specific point; reader can follow somewhat logical progression of thought	Fewer than half the paragraphs have a particular focus and cohesively develop a specific point; reader has difficulty following progression of thought	Incoherent paragraphs; no transitions; reader has great difficulty following progression of thought

Citations/ Evidence	Relevant, gracefully integrated, properly cited	Relevant, integrated, properly cited	Not always relevant or integrated, usually cited	Rarely integrated or cited correctly	Irrelevant or no quotations without citation
Language	Exceptionally well crafted and clear. Diction is vivid, apt and precise. Sentence structures are varied and carefully composed; maintains active voice	Clear with few errors; diction usually vivid, apt and precise; sentence structures usually varied and carefully crafted; mostly maintains active voice	Errors exist but do not detract from readability; wordiness; imprecise diction; passive voice; unclear/awkward sentences; some distracting grammar errors.	Major errors detract from readability; language is vague, ungraceful or has frequent errors; little economy and precision; unclear or awkward sentences	Numerous grammatical errors and stylistic problems that seriously detract from the argument; requirements