

College Writing II: Essay Assessment

The following feedback on your assignment gives you an exact map of the areas you need to work on to improve your writing, so please take the time to review it carefully. If you find any of the feedback confusing, be sure to ask questions about it.

Each part of your paper is rated on a scale of 1 to 5:

1 = unacceptable 2 = needs a lot of work 3 = almost there 4 = good 5 = excellent

IDEAS/CONTENT

- _____ thesis/central idea is well developed, interesting, and meaningful—easy for a reader to understand the writer’s direction and purpose
 - _____ each of the requirements for the essay have been fulfilled; there is a match between the content of the piece and the instructions provided for the assignment
 - _____ clear, specific, and concise details provide plenty of support for the paper’s central idea and effectively capture the reader’s interest—no danger of a “So what?” response from the reader
 - _____ evidence of logical reasoning is present throughout the paper
 - _____ the paper reflects the writer’s mastery of the rhetorical form(s) used; essential features of the mode (process, comparison/contrast, persuasion, etc.) are present
- Total**

ORGANIZATION

- _____ introduction is well-developed and interesting; frames the focus of the paper
 - _____ transitions (**TR**) provide smooth connections between paragraphs and ideas
 - _____ clear and effective organization throughout the paper; a reader can easily follow the writer’s ideas from point to point; good planning is evident
 - _____ no extraneous information has been included
 - _____ conclusion is well-developed and interesting; does not raise new issues that aren’t present in the body of the paper, but reveals a deeper understanding of the topic than that which is presented in the introduction
- Total**

CONVENTIONS

- _____ punctuation
 - _____ avoidance of grammar errors; no unintentional fragments (**FR**), run-ons (**ROS**), comma splices (**CS**)
 - _____ sentences are well-formed and support development and arrangement of content
 - _____ proper format and attractive presentation; correct use of MLA documentation as needed
 - _____ careful proofreading is evident—errors are hard to find
- Total**

STYLE

- _____ tone and degree of formality are appropriate for the assignment
 - _____ the writer’s voice comes through the essay, capturing reader attention and interest
 - _____ sentence structure is clear, effective, and varied
 - _____ language/word choice is clear, thoughtful, and original—no use of clichés or overused expressions
 - _____ overall style meets standards for college level writing; shows writer’s understanding of the expectations for this form of academic discourse
- Total**