

Spring 2013: Written Communication Assessment Rubric

	1—No/Limited Proficiency	2—Some Proficiency	3--Proficiency	4—Advanced Proficiency
Ideas/ Engagement With Topic	Does not show original thinking or understanding of the topic; is not appropriate for audience; does not engage with the purpose of the assignment	Shows understanding of the topic, but may not contain original thinking or interpretation; may not fully engage with the purpose of the assignment.	Shows understanding of the topic and audience and some original thinking.	Shows original or imaginative thinking (appropriate for audience); approaches the topic in a unique and effective way.
Thesis/Focus	No thesis or apparent focus.	Thesis is present, but weak, broad, unclear, or unimaginative.	Adequate, identifiable thesis.	Thesis offers an original take on the question or challenges the reader's understanding
Structure/ Organization	Organization is unclear or ineffective for the question, audience, or thesis.	Organization is rudimentary or inconsistent; paragraphs and transitions may be abrupt; flow of ideas may be illogical or inconsistent with question, audience, or thesis.	Organization is mostly clear and appropriate to the question, audience, or thesis; introduction and conclusion support the overall argument. Sequence of ideas and arguments could be improved.	Organization is effective and imaginative; Sequence of ideas or paragraphs is effective, and transitions are smooth.
Mechanics	Contains multiple or egregious errors of grammar, syntax, or spelling that severely hinder the reader's understanding.	Contains errors of grammar, syntax, or spelling that may hinder the reader's understanding. Sentence structure may be too basic or not varied.	Effective sentence structure with few errors. Minor errors of grammar, syntax, or spelling.	Rich, varied, and imaginative sentence structure; no visible errors of grammar, syntax, or spelling.