|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Below Expectations | Average | Above Expectations |
| Quality of Ideas | -Essay solely positive orsolely negative.-Repetitious.-Based largely on direct quotes (others' voices).-Few or no references to others' arguments or evidence.-No attention to contexts of arguments discussed. | -Safe, run-of-the-mill ideas.-Both positive and negative points included.-Reasonably clear ideas-Good attention to contexts of the arguments discussed. | -Originality.-Striking / Daring ideas.-Shows insight.-Essay both critical andappreciative.-Takes intellectual risks-Innovative discussion of relationship between debates and their historical contexts. |
| Content &Development | -Major points are not clear and /or persuasive.-Factual errors.-Missed connections.-Lack of attention to empirical evidence.-Topic is obvious, trivial or excessively obscure (relevance unclear).-Course materials are not addressed. | -Armchair analysis (fails to use support from classmaterials).-Content is not comprehensive and /orpersuasive.-Major points are addressed, but not well supported.-Content is somewhatinconsistent with regard tocourse concepts. | -Content is comprehensive,accurate, and persuasive.-Major points are statedclearly and are wellsupported.-Research is adequate,timely and addresses course content.-Content and purpose of the writing are clear. |
| Organization &Structure | -Organization and structuredetract from the message ofthe writer.-No strong thesis stated.-Paragraph is disjointed andlacks transition of thoughts.-Lacking citations; orimproper/incorrect citationusage.-Repetitive sentence structure.-Frequent short sentences;fragmented ideas. | -Thesis statement exists but could be more compelling.-Structure of the paragraphis not easy to follow.-Paragraph transitions need improvement.-Some internal problems of organization; the arguments don't come together overall.-Sentences work together,but with little variation instructure and cadence. | - Structure of the paragraph is clear.-Conclusion providesinsights and added value; not just a summary of the paper.-Lively, easy to read style.-Good variation in sentence structure and rhythm.-Appropriate citation usage |
| Grammar &Mechanics | -Paper contains numerousgrammatical, punctuation,and spelling errors.-Unnecessary use of jargon.-Paper lacks many elementsof correct formatting.-Paragraph is needlesslyshort or excessive in length. | -Paper contains fewgrammatical, punctuationand spelling errors.-Language lacks clarity orincludes too much jargon.-Paper follows mostguidelines.-Paper is shorter than itshould be. | -Rules of grammar, usage, and punctuation are followed; spelling is correct.-Language is clear andprecise; sentences display consistently strong, varied structure.-Paper follows designated guidelines.-Paper is the appropriatelength as described for the assignment. |