

Welch Center Writing and Discussion Forum Rubrics

Rubric Purpose: These rubrics have been designed to provide a grading framework for written assignments and discussion forum participation. Each rubric has been designed, reviewed and revised through collaborative efforts of distance learning staff, department faculty and academic directors. Use of rubrics can provide higher levels of feedback to students, clarify assignment expectations and structure the grading process. Values in this rubric correspond as follows: (4) is an A+ to A-, (3.5) is an A- to B+, (3) is a B+ to B-, (2) is a C+ to C-, (1-0) reflect below C- grades.

Grading Expectations: Grading is an inherently subjective process. Rubrics are one method of developing increased grade assessment consistency across a curriculum. It is also helpful for faculty to understand GPA expectations for graduate students in the graduate programs. Graduate students in the Welch Center programs are expected to maintain a 3.0 GPA to maintain good academic standing. Grades below a B- are reflective of work not meeting standards of graduate work in these departments. Faculty are not discouraged from grading C or lower when appropriate. A mix of some grades above and below B- can still result in a GPA over 3.0. Students have the opportunity to retake classes for a higher grade, where the second attempt grade replaces the original grade.

Welch Center Writing Rubric

Criteria	0 Points	Minimum 1 Point	2 Points	Intermediate 3 Points	3.5 Points	Maximum 4 Points
<p>Content <i>Degree to which the assignment directions and objectives are accomplished</i></p>	Work does not meet standard	Demonstrates minimal understanding of assignment objectives and instructions	Demonstrates adequate attention to assignment objectives and instructions	Work demonstrates consistent satisfactory understanding of assignment objectives and instructions	Follows all instructions, thoroughly accomplishes objectives	Demonstrates exemplary understanding of assignment objectives
<p>Critical Thinking <i>Degree to which the ideas, thesis or reflection demonstrate critical analysis</i></p>	Work does not meet standard	Writing presents opinion or demonstrates minimal analysis, interpretation and evaluation of ideas / evidence / sources of information	Writing demonstrates uneven analysis, interpretation and evaluation of ideas / evidence / sources of information	Consistent satisfactory analysis, interpretation and evaluation of ideas / evidence / sources of information	Consistent and high quality analysis, interpretation and evaluation of ideas / evidence / sources of information	Evidence of outstanding analysis, interpretation and evaluation of ideas / evidence / sources of information
<p>Organization and Voice <i>Degree to which ideas and awareness of self and audience are effectively communicated</i></p>	Work does not meet standard	Lack of effective organization, no sense of the writer, minimal awareness of audience	Organization of ideas and awareness of audience is adequate, little sense of the writer behind the words	Consistent satisfactory organization of ideas and awareness of both audience and writer	High quality organization of ideas, awareness of audience, and good sense of the writer's engagement with the content	Exceptional organization of ideas and writing is skillfully adapted to the audience, the writer brings the topic to life
<p>Evidence <i>Degree to which claims are supported</i></p>	Work does not meet standard	Minimal use of evidence to support claims and ideas, marginal quality evidence used	Some use of evidence to support claims and ideas, quality of evidence is adequate	Consistent satisfactory use of varied quality evidence to support claims and ideas	Consistent use of quality and reliable evidence to support claims and ideas	Exceptional use of high quality evidence to support claims and ideas
<p>Grammar and Style <i>Degree to which spelling, syntax, diction and citations are included</i></p>	Work does not meet standard	Poor communication and minimal attention to effective writing conventions	Writing needs substantial proofreading	Minor errors, satisfactory attention to writing conventions	Few errors, high quality attention to writing conventions	No errors, effective use of writing conventions

Welch Center Discussion Forum Rubric

Criteria	0 Points	Minimum 1 Point	2 Points	Intermediate 3 Points	3.5 Points	Maximum 4 Points
Content <i>Degree to which the forum directions and objectives are accomplished</i>	Work does not meet standard; no participation	Work demonstrates minimal understanding of forum prompt and instructions	Work demonstrates adequate attention to forum prompt and instructions	Work demonstrates proficient understanding of forum prompt and instructions	Work demonstrates thorough understanding of all instructions and forum prompt	Work demonstrates exemplary understanding of forum prompt and objectives
Critical Thinking <i>Degree to which the ideas or reflection demonstrate critical analysis</i>	Work does not meet standard; no participation	Forum participation demonstrates minimal analysis, interpretation and evaluation of ideas / evidence / sources of information	Forum participation demonstrates uneven analysis, interpretation and evaluation of ideas / evidence / sources of information	Forum participation demonstrates consistent proficient analysis, interpretation and evaluation of ideas / evidence / sources of information	Forum participation demonstrates consistent and high quality analysis, interpretation and evaluation of ideas / evidence / sources of information	Evidence of outstanding analysis, interpretation and evaluation of ideas / evidence / sources of information
Originality <i>Degree to which forum participation reflects original thinking and writing</i>	Work does not meet standard; no participation	Work lacks new or unique insights and contributions	Forum participation reflects adequate original thinking and writing	Forum participation reflects proficient original thinking and writing	Forum participation consistently reflects high quality original thinking and writing	Contribution advances overall discussion with unique ideas, reflection and analysis
Professionalism <i>Degree to which forum participation demonstrates attention to writing conventions and respectful conversation</i>	Work does not meet standard; no participation	Viewpoints are not thoughtfully or constructively presented, writing reflects a lack of proofreading	Forum participation reflects adequate presentation of viewpoints, contains numerous writing errors	Forum participation reflects proficient presentation of viewpoints, contains several writing errors	Forum participation has thoughtful viewpoints constructively presented, contains few writing errors	Writing, comments and suggestions are exemplary and enrich the activity, no writing errors