

Writing in the Major Rubric (Outside the capstone)

November 2009

Objective	Advanced	Proficient	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
1. Focus, Purpose or Thesis	Engaging and full development of a clear thesis appropriate to the assignment purpose.	Competent and well-developed thesis which represents sound and adequate understanding of the topic.	Weak thesis that does not demonstrate a clear understanding of the topic.	Simplistic or unfocused thesis with little or no sense of purpose and unclear understanding of the topic.
2. Ideas, Support and Development	Consistent originality and depth of ideas which work together as a unified whole. Main points are sufficiently supported with valid and specific evidence.	Ideas sufficiently supported with valid and logical evidence.	Inconsistent support of ideas with occasionally illogical generalizations only partially supported by the evidence.	Lack of sufficient support for main purpose; frequent and illogical generalizations that are not supported with valid evidence.
3. Structure and Organization	Organization is sequential and appropriate to the assignment. Paragraphs are appropriate and purposeful. Ideas are logically presented and interrelated. Transitions are linked with smooth and effective transitions.	Competent organization with paragraphs that support major points. Appropriate transitions between paragraphs.	Inconsistent organization with occasional support of major points but unclear and/or incoherent transition between paragraphs.	Unclear structure with paragraphs lacking cohesion and failing to support major points. Transition between paragraphs lack coherence and may have one or more digressions.
4. Sentence Structure and Grammar	Each sentence is effectively structured, using a rich and well-chosen variety of sentence styles and length. Free of punctuation, spelling and capitalization errors. Appropriate forms and presentation for assignment.	Effective and varied sentences with infrequent errors due to lack or proofreading, syntax errors and/or use of colloquialisms. Infrequent errors in punctuation, spelling and capitalization.	Varied sentences with occasional errors in sentence structure. Shows insufficient effort in proofreading to identify errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar and syntax errors and/or use of colloquialisms.	Simple sentences used almost exclusively with frequent errors in sentence structure. Contains many errors in punctuation, spelling and capitalization. Errors significantly interfere with meaning and formatting is weak.
5. Vocabulary and Usage	Exceptional vocabulary range with accuracy and effective word usage.	Good range of vocabulary with accurate usage.	Range of vocabulary that is limited and inconsistent usage.	Extremely limited or inappropriate vocabulary which lack a grasp of diction. Inaccurate usage.

Adapted from St. Mary's College http://www2.bc.cc.ca.us/jfulks/basicSkills%20course_coding/Example_Writing_Rubric.pdf and California State University Longbeach www.cecs.csulb.edu/~maples/Dept-docs/Writing-Rubric.doc