

Focus

Excellent	Good	Average	Low
20 19 18 points	17 16 points	15 14 points	13 12 11... points
Clear thesis and direction through the entire essay. The topic fits the length of the assignment. Evaluation includes the key points of the article and presents a well-supported discussion of the author's work.	The main topic is clear, but your essay could be more specific. The controlling idea of the paper helps guide the reader, but your topic could be narrower. Summary or evaluation has too much or too little detail.	There is a main topic, but the essay doesn't always stick to it, and may be too broad in scope. Summary or evaluation covers the big ideas, but misses important supporting points.	There is no clear focal topic for the paper; the paper may wander through ideas. A reader may have to ask you to clarify main ideas. Summary includes opinion, or evaluation is too vague for readers.

Content/Development

Excellent	Good	Average	Low
20 19 18 points	17 16 points	15 14 points	13 12 11... points
The paper fully and clearly explains ideas, using plenty of details. You are able to paraphrase and condense the author's ideas, and present a thoughtful critique.	The main ideas are explained clearly. However, the paper doesn't use enough details to explore the topic. Your summary or evaluation could be stronger.	Main ideas are clear. However, not all the required parts of the assignment have been completed. The essay may be too simple, too short or both.	The paper has few details to explain your ideas. You have not completed important parts of the assignment. Your essay is too short.

Organization

Excellent	Good	Average	Low
20 19 18 points	17 16 points	15 14 points	13 12 11... points
It is always easy to follow the organization of your essay. Your introduction and thesis are clear. Your conclusion summarizes your ideas and leaves the reader thinking about the topic.	Your ideas are usually well organized, though there may be one part that doesn't connect well with the rest. You have an introduction and conclusion, but one or both of these are brief or do not keep the reader's attention.	Parts of your essay are organized, but other parts are not. In some parts you jump around from one point to another without a clear connection. Your introduction and conclusion may be too general or too brief.	You do not follow a clear plan in discussing your ideas. A reader finds it difficult to understand the connection between ideas. You may not have an introduction and/or conclusion.

Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling (GPS)

Excellent	Good	Average	Low
10 9 points	8 points	7 points	6 5 4... points
You use a variety of grammatical structures. When you use more complex structures, you may make a few errors. You demonstrate mastery of spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. Meaning is clear.	You generally use only basic grammatical structures. You may make some errors, especially in verb tense, word order, or word form. However, grammar mistakes do not make meaning unclear. There are occasional errors in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.	You make frequent errors in the basic grammar structures. Grammar mistakes may make some parts of your essay unclear, but a reader can still understand your main ideas. There are frequent errors in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. Meaning is sometimes confusing.	Grammar mistakes are very basic. (For example, you might confuse "he" and "she.") Grammar mistakes make the meaning of important ideas unclear. There is very little mastery of writing conventions. The essay is dominated by errors of spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

APA Formatting

Excellent	Good	Average	Low
10 9 points	8 points	7 points	6 5 4... points
Your paper follows APA style with few or no errors, including reference page and cover sheet. You reference the author frequently throughout the paper.	You have the basics of APA in your paper, but you are missing citations or you have missed some features of APA style. You include references to the author often in your paper.	Your paper has a cover page, but there are many formatting errors throughout your paper. You mention the author in your work.	You did not follow APA format, or you are missing key parts of APA style. You have little to no mention of the author in your paper.

Paraphrase, Summary, Evaluation

Excellent	Good	Average	Low
10 9 points	8 points	7 points	6 5 4... points
Your evaluation accurately summarizes and paraphrases the author’s main ideas. Your evaluation is well-supported with specific evidence from the article.	You have captured the main ideas of the article, and your evaluation has some support. Your summary and paraphrase is sometimes vague or unclear, or your evaluation could have better support.	You have included the main ideas, but important details are missing from your summary. Your evaluation has minimal support, or your critique isn’t well thought out.	Either your summary or your evaluation is too short or incomplete. You may be missing key points in your summary, or a clear direction in your evaluation.

Drafts/Improvements

Excellent	Good	Average	Low
10 9 points	8 points	7 points	6 5 4... points
You have turned in all drafts in a timely fashion, and your final paper includes all drafts for this paper. You have made significant improvement in your paper over time.	You have turned in most of your drafts in on time, and your final paper may be missing a prewrite or an outline. You have made improvements in your paper, but with more work it could have been a stronger draft.	You have turned in drafts late, or your final paper is missing one or more drafts. You made very few changes in your drafts, or did not submit them in a timely manner.	You have not turned in any drafts, or you are missing most if not all of your drafts for your final paper. Your paper has changed very little, if at all.

TOTAL: _____ / 100

Notes: