

Rubric for Major Written Assignments

RHET 351, Fall 2013

Quality of Ideas

- Focuses on insightful and intriguing observations, rather than explaining the obvious
- Develops multiple complex ideas, rather than repeating a single point
- Shows a willingness to take intellectual risks, exploring points that might be hard for others to see

Organization

- Orders paragraphs and sentences purposefully, not randomly
- Helps readers see how different paragraphs and sections are connected, using transitions and section headings when appropriate
- Helps readers see how the sentences in a paragraph are connected, using segues to make each sentence flow logically from those preceding it
- Helps readers enter and exit the discussion with an engaging introduction and a compelling conclusion that emphasizes the significance of this discussion

Evidence

- Supports points with evidence from outside texts when evidence is logically needed, always choosing the evidence best suited to the rhetorical situation
- Balances summary, paraphrase, and quotation with the author's own words, never leaning too much on sources or avoiding them completely
- Strongly integrates summary, paraphrase, and quotation into the author's sentences, always introducing outside sources and working them into the author's grammar naturally
- Cites evidence in a way that fits with the genre of the author's piece (e.g. linking in a blog post, following MLA or APA style for a printed essay, and so on)

Style

- Chooses words and sentences that are lively, engaging, varied, beautiful, graceful, clear, and powerful, depending on the rhetorical situation and the author's purpose
- Shows a strong command of the grammar and punctuation of standard written English, breaking those rules only in ways that seem purposeful and fitting with the rhetorical situation and the author's purpose