

CONFLICT & DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Short Reflection Paper: Rubric Explanation

	Excellent	Satisfactory	Mediocre	Unacceptable
General Requirements Expected Throughout				
Technical Requirements	The paper follows all the "Formatting Requirements" posted on the course website.	The paper generally follows those formatting requirements.	The paper does not follow some of the more important formatting requirements.	The paper suggests a complete lack of awareness concerning the formatting requirements for this assignment.
Clarity	The paper follows the conventions of standard written English, with no errors hindering comprehension. All words are chosen for their precise meanings.	The paper generally follows the conventions of standard written English, with errors not hindering comprehension. Most words are chosen for their precise meanings.	The paper generally follows the conventions of standard written English, with errors hindering comprehension. Words are not chosen for their precise meanings.	The paper does not follow the conventions of standard written English, with major errors hindering comprehension. The summary does not acknowledge that key words have precise meanings.
Context	The paper ensures all new or unusual terms are well-defined. Any necessary background information (key concepts, theories, etc.) is accurately and completely explained.	The paper ensures that most new or unusual terms are well-defined. Any necessary background information (key concepts, theories, etc.) is explained.	The paper generally fails to clearly define new or unusual terms. Any necessary background information (key concepts, theories, etc.) is not explained.	The paper uses new or unusual terms incorrectly or in ways that make no sense. Any necessary background information (key concepts, theories, etc.) make no sense or are used inaccurately.
Reflection	The paper displays an in-depth reflection on, and personalization of, the course material and meaningfully connects that material to the author's own life and experiences.	The paper displays a general reflection on, and personalization of, course material, and makes some good connections between that material and the author's own life and experiences.	The paper displays a minimal reflection on, and personalization of, the course material, making few connections between that material and the author's own life and experiences.	The paper displays a lack of reflection on, or personalization of, the course material, and makes no real connections between that material and the author's own life and experiences.
Academic Integrity*	The paper properly cites and/or acknowledges all its sources using APA formatting. As relevant, the paper includes "References" and "Acknowledgments" sections.	The paper cites and/or acknowledges its sources, but with sloppy or inconsistent formatting.	The paper displays a minimal effort to cite and/or acknowledge its sources, but without any clear formatting.	The paper commits plagiarism or suffers from another academic integrity violation.

*Depending on the severity of the circumstances, a mark of mediocre or unacceptable for academic integrity may also result in the instructor writing letters to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and the Coordinator of Community Standards informing them of an academic integrity violation in this course.

Short Reflection Paper: Rubric Explanation (Continued)

	Excellent	Satisfactory	Mediocre	Unacceptable
Introduction: Background & Thesis Statement				
Background	<p>The paper and its topic is introduced with minimal fanfare in at most three sentences.</p> <p>Any relevant background information for understanding the paper's thesis statement is clearly presented.</p>	<p>The paper and its topic is introduced with little fanfare in at most three sentences.</p> <p>Some relevant background information for understanding the paper's thesis statement is presented, but some ambiguities remain.</p>	<p>The paper and its topic is introduced with too much fanfare, in more than three sentences.</p> <p>Very little relevant background information is presented, making the paper's thesis statement difficult to understand.</p>	<p>The paper and its topic has no discernible introduction at all.</p>
Thesis Statement	<p>The paper's thesis statement (in answer to the paper topic's question) is clear, and presented in the introductory paragraph.</p> <p>(In general, the thesis statement is one sentence that clearly states the position that the body of the paper will defend and/or explain. For example, there is nothing wrong with the last sentence of your introduction simply saying, "In this paper, I will argue [thesis statement].")</p>	<p>The paper's thesis statement is obvious, but there is no single clear statement of it in the introductory paragraph.</p>	<p>The paper's thesis statement is not contained in the introduction, but must be uncovered or reconstructed from what is actually written in the paper.</p>	<p>The paper's thesis statement is not contained in the introduction, and the paper is never clear on what that thesis might be.</p>
Body: Justification & Explanation of the Thesis Statement				
Organization	<p>The paper's justification and explanation of its thesis statement is very easy to follow.</p> <p>It is made explicit how the paper's claims (reasons, explanations, etc.) are supposed to support the thesis statement.</p> <p>Important claims supporting the thesis are each distinguished and introduced separately.</p>	<p>The paper's justification and explanation is generally easy to follow.</p> <p>It is pretty clear how the paper's claims are supposed to come together in support of the thesis statement.</p> <p>Usually, important claims supporting the thesis are distinguished and introduced separately.</p>	<p>The paper's justification and explanation is somewhat difficult to follow.</p> <p>It is somewhat unclear how the paper's claims are supposed to come together in support of the thesis statement.</p> <p>Important claims are lumped together without being clearly distinguished.</p>	<p>The paper's justification and explanation is impossible to follow.</p> <p>It is completely unclear how the paper's claims are supposed to come together in support of the thesis statement.</p> <p>Important claims are presented and discussed randomly.</p>
Premises	<p>The paper clearly presents each premise (reason, assumption, evidence, etc.) offered in support of the thesis statement.</p> <p>As much as possible, each premise is presented in a single statement.</p>	<p>The paper is generally clear about the premises supporting the thesis statement.</p> <p>Each premise, however, may not be presented in a single statement.</p>	<p>The paper is unclear about the premises supporting the thesis statement, and they must be uncovered or reconstructed from what is actually written in the paper.</p>	<p>The paper never identifies any premises—it merely repeats and restates the thesis statement in different ways.</p>

Short Reflection Paper: Rubric Explanation (Continued)

	Excellent	Satisfactory	Mediocre	Unacceptable
Body: Justification & Explanation of the Thesis Statement (Continued)				
Support	The paper's premises (reasons, assumptions, evidence, etc.) clearly support the thesis statement, and the author is aware of exactly the kind of support those premises provide.	The paper's premises support the thesis statement, and the author is aware of the general kind of support those premises provide.	The paper's premises somewhat support the thesis statement, but the author does not seem aware of the kind of support those premises actually provide.	The paper's premises do not support the thesis statement in any meaningful way.
Examples	The paper provides good, clear examples from the author's life and experiences to illustrate important concepts and issues. They are relevant, insightful, and well-used.	The paper's examples are clear, relevant, and well-used.	The paper's examples are not clear, only somewhat relevant, and/or not well-used.	The paper's examples are confusing, irrelevant, misused, and/or altogether missing.
Relevance	The paper clearly and insightfully shows the relevance of its parts for justifying and/or explaining its thesis statement.	The paper is generally clear in showing the relevance of all its parts, though some inessential details appear.	The paper is somewhat unclear in the relevance of its parts, and inessential details repeatedly appear.	The paper has significant parts that do not seem relevant, and there are too many inessential details throughout.
Overall Synthesis	Overall, the paper successfully integrates all its parts into a coherent and compelling response to the paper topic's question.	Overall, the paper integrates most of its parts into a fairly coherent and compelling response to the paper topic's question.	Overall, the paper integrates some of its parts into a somewhat coherent and compelling response to the paper topic's question.	Overall, the paper fails to come together as a coherent and compelling response to the paper topic's question.
Conclusion				
No Conclusion	There is no conclusion. Once the defense and explanation of the thesis statement has been made, the paper immediately ends without any further summary or discussion.	There is a very brief (one- or two-sentence) conclusion, where earlier points are summarized and/or nothing new for the argument is introduced.	There is a short (three- or four-sentence) conclusion, where earlier points are summarized and/or nothing new for the argument is introduced.	There is a lengthy (more than four-sentence) concluding paragraph, where earlier points are summarized and/or nothing new for the argument is introduced.