

INF161 – Term Paper Grading Rubric

Performance Element	Exceeds Standard	Standard	Nearly Meets Standard	Does Not Meet Standard	No Evidence
Thesis	Clearly and concisely states the paper's purpose in a single sentence, which is engaging, and thought provoking.	Clearly states the paper's purpose in a single sentence.	States the paper's purpose in a single sentence.	Incomplete or unfocused.	Absent.
Introduction	The introduction is engaging, states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper.	The introduction states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper.	The introduction states the main topic but does not adequately preview the structure of the paper.	There is no clear introduction or main topic and the structure of the paper is missing.	Absent.
Development of Ideas	Depth and complexity of ideas supported by rich, engaging, and pertinent details; evidence of analysis, reflection and insight. Each paragraph has thoughtful supports and develops the main idea.	Depth of idea development supported by elaborated, relevant details. Each paragraph has sufficient supporting detail sentences that develop the main idea.	Unelaborated idea development; unelaborated and/or repetitious details. Each paragraph lacks supporting detail sentences.	Minimal idea development, limited and/or unrelated details.	N/A
Organization	Writer demonstrates logical and subtle sequencing of ideas through well-developed paragraphs; topic sentences and transitions are used to enhance organization.	Paragraph development present but not perfected.	Logical organization; organization of ideas not fully developed.	No evidence of structure or organization.	N/A

Conclusion	The conclusion is engaging and restates the thesis.	The conclusion restates the thesis.	The conclusion does not adequately restate the thesis.	Incomplete and/or unfocused.	Absent.
Citations	All cited works, both text and visual, are done in a consistent format with no errors.	Errors and/or inconsistencies evident when referencing of other work.	Few cited works are correctly referenced.	Absent.	N/A
References	Done in a consistent format with no errors. Includes many references that appropriately support the research topic and indicates substantial and thorough research.	Done in a consistent format with few errors. Includes references that support the research topic and indicate an appropriate amount of research.	Done in the correct format with some errors. Includes references that support the research topic but may overlook important issues and/or counter-arguments.	Includes many errors. Includes references that do not adequately support the research topic.	Absent.
Language	Precise and/or rich language.	Acceptable, effective language.	Simplistic and/or imprecise language.	Incorrect and/or ineffective wording and/or sentence structure.	N/A
Grammar and Formatting	Control of surface features.	Few errors in grammar or format relative to paper length.	Some errors relative to paper length that do not interfere with communication.	Errors that interfere with communication.	N/A

Important Notes

- Please use whatever citation system you know best, but be consistent!
- To “appropriately support the research topic” you must include and make use of research literature. News, blog posts, etc. are great for demonstrating your topic, but your paper must be heavily informed by academic, peer-reviewed, published work.