Rubric for Written Work

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| CONTENT | Strong | Acceptable | Weak |
| Governing Claim  (very important) | Paper has a clear, non-obvious, interesting claim that neither restates the question nor asks one without answering it | Paper has a clear claim but it may be obvious or a simple restatement of the question | Paper makes no clear claim |
| Scope | Topic is clearly defined and limited | Topic is defined but limits aren’t clear | Topic is either undefined or tries to do too much |
| Topic sentences | Each paragraph has a topic sentence that clearly links back to the thesis | Paragraphs have topic sentences but relationship to thesis is not always clear | No or few topic sentences; paragraphs not logically ordered |
| EVIDENCE |  |  |  |
| Choice of evidence  (very important) | Claim is supported with evidence drawn from the text that is analyzed creatively and thoughtfully | Claim is supported with textual evidence but analysis is minimal or evidence is obvious | Claim is either unsupported or evidence is irrelevant |
| Integration | Quotations are smoothly integrated into the text | Not all quotations fully integrated; some awkward moments | Quotations not integrated into sentences, introducing grammatical or logical errors |
| Analysis | Each quotation is preceded or followed by analysis—at least 2 lines per quotation | Quotations are analyzed but some logical breaks or missing steps | Limited to no analysis of quotations; analysis never moves beyond paraphrase |
| Academic Integrity (pass/fail) | Sources are properly referenced |  | Essay lacks attribution for sources, whether course materials, online sources, or others |
| FORMAT |  |  |  |
| Grammar | Paper has been copy-edited and has no grammatical or spelling errors | Paper is largely error-free but some errors remain | Paper has not been copy-edited |
| Style | Writing is clear and graceful | Paper is usually clear and readable | Paper is awkward, repetitive, or hard to read. |
| Concision  (very important) | Paper is concise and diction is well-chosen; style shows attention to revision | Paper is generally concise, though some wordiness may remain | Paper is wordy and vague |
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