

Rubric Analytical Essays and Information Literacy

The purpose of this rubric is to assess analytical essays and documentation competence in a specific writing style.

Standards

LA-SUBR-LO.1

Critical Thinking: Graduates will reason abstractly and think critically and integrate new information with previously acquired information to solve novel complex problems and learn independently.

LA-SUBR-LO.2

Communication Skills: Graduates will communicate effectively using skills that apply to English in general as well as to specific English language modalities at the college-level of competence.

LA-SUBR-LR.2

Understanding: Constructing meaning from oral, written, and graphic messages through interpreting, exemplifying, classifying, summarizing, inferring, comparing, and explaining.

LA-SUBR-LR.4

Analyzing: Breaking material into constituent parts, determining how the parts relate to one another and to an overall structure or purpose through differentiating, organizing, and attributing.

LA-SUBR-LR.5

Evaluating: Making judgments based on criteria and standards through checking and critiquing.

LA-SUBR-LR.6

Creating: Putting elements together to form a coherent or functional whole; reorganizing elements into a new pattern or structure through generating, planning, or producing.

PLNU Writing Rubric				
	5 Highly Proficient (5 pts)	4 Proficient (4 pts)	3 Limited Proficiency (3 pts)	2 Poor Proficiency (2 pts)
Writer's Approach (1, 12%) LA-SUBR-LO.1 LA-SUBR-LO.2 LA-SUBR-LR.4	The analysis presents fresh and defensible insights into the work being analyzed. The writer's ethos is one of confidence and competence.	The analysis presents defensible insights into the work being analyzed, but may not go much further than the obvious. The writer's ethos is one of competence.	The analysis limits itself to obvious perspectives and insights—on the Cliff's Notes level, for instance. Writer seems to be relying on status quo instead of establishing her/his own ethos.	The analysis lacks insight, offers only commonplaces, or regurgitates class notes. There is no sense of the writer taking responsibility for the interpretation.
Application of Critical Technique & Perspective (1, 12%) LA-SUBR-LR.5	Essay reflects mastery of the literary perspective applied. The writer is fluent in the language and theory behind the perspective.	Essay reflects a solid understanding of the literary perspective applied. The writer is using much of the language and theory behind the perspective.	Essay reflects some understanding of the literary perspective applied. The writer struggles to use the language and theory behind the perspective.	Essay reflects little to no understanding of the literary perspective applied. The writer barely uses the language and theory behind the perspective.
Use of Secondary Scholarship (if called for) (1, 12%) LA-SUBR-LR.5	The analysis engages in dialogue with secondary scholarship on the work in a way that presents new insights to the reader. Powerfully chosen textual proof supports each point. The textual proof is thoroughly examined, explained, and clearly relevant to the thesis.	The analysis may engage in dialogue with secondary scholarship on the work but does not challenge or reinterpret what has already been said. Well chosen textual proof supports each point. The textual proof is adequately examined, explained, and relevant to the thesis.	The analysis includes excerpts from secondary scholarship on the work but does not engage in dialogue with them; they are more "plunked in." Acceptably chosen textual proof supports most points. The textual proof may be inconsistently examined, explained, or relevant to the thesis.	The analysis may include some excerpts from secondary scholarship, but these may be uninterpreted or misinterpreted; use of these sources substitutes, sometimes unsuccessfully, for the writer's own analysis. Questionably chosen textual proof supports a few points. The textual proof is usually insufficiently examined, explained, or relevant to the thesis.
Organization (1, 12%) LA-SUBR-LO.1 LA-SUBR-LO.2 LA-	The analysis begins with a strong, well-developed introduction that identifies the work by title and author, and	The analysis begins with a well-developed introduction that identifies the work by title and author, and posits a	The analysis begins with a minimally-developed introduction that identifies the work by title and author. The	The analysis begins with a poorly developed introduction that does not posit a clear, logical thesis and the writer fails to identify the

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SUBR-LR.4	posits a succinctly stated thesis. The body expertly explains and develops the thesis and provides supporting examples from the work itself or from related works that back up the thesis. The conclusion leaves the reader with a question, a quotation, a fresh insight, or another memorable impression.	succinctly stated thesis. The body explains and develops the thesis and provides supporting examples from the work. The conclusion brings the analysis to a satisfactory close.	thesis is somewhat weak but does set forth an argument. The body only partially explains or develops the thesis; few supporting examples from the work are given. The conclusion may be weak, repetitive, or missing.	work by title or author. No organizational plan is evident.
Writer's Language (1, 12%)	Word choice is consistently precise, vivid, or powerful.	Word choice is generally precise.	Word choice is generally imprecise and may be misleading.	Word choice is incorrect or confusing.
Use of Borrowed Information (1, 12%) LA-SUBR-LR.5	All borrowed material smoothly is incorporated without error, and citations are complete and correct.	Borrowed material may be inserted clumsily, but its incorporation is without error and citations are complete and correct.	Borrowed material may be inserted clumsily, and/or its incorporation may have a few minor errors in the format of citations.	Borrowed material is incorrectly inserted, or not clearly identified as borrowed material, or not correctly or completely documented.
Execution (1, 12%) LA-SUBR-LO.2	Essay is flawlessly written with a flair for academic style. There are few or no errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling.	Essay is well written with a solid academic style. There may be a few errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling.	Essay is acceptably written with some academic style. There are several errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling—enough to distract a reader.	Essay is poorly written with little academic style. There are serious errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, and spelling
MLA Format (1, 12%) LA-SUBR-LO.2	MLA format is used accurately and consistently in the paper and on the "Reference, Works Cited or Bibliography" page.	MLA format is used with minor errors within the paper and on the "Reference, Works Cited or Bibliography" page.	There are frequent errors in MLA format within the paper and/or on the "Reference, Works Cited or Bibliography" page.	Format of the document is not recognizable as MLA within the paper and/or on the "Reference, Works Cited or Bibliography" page.

