

Astronomy 2022 (Fall 2011) writing assignment rubric

	Beginning 1	Developing 2	Accomplished 3	Exemplary 4	Score
Purpose	The purpose or argument is generally unclear.	The central purpose or argument is not consistently clear throughout the paper.	The writing has a clear purpose or argument, but may sometimes digress from it.	The writer's central purpose or argument is readily apparent to the reader.	
Information	Little or not information provided in support of the central purpose or argument.	Information is provided to support a central purpose or argument at times.	Information provides reasonable support for a central purpose or argument.	Balanced presentation of relevant and legitimate information that clearly supports a central purpose or argument.	
Analysis	Analysis is vague or not evident. Reader is confused or may be misinformed.	Analysis is basic or general. Reader gains few insights.	Evidence of a basic analysis of a significant topic. Reader gains some insights.	Shows a thoughtful, in-depth analysis of a significant topic. Reader gains important insights.	
Organization	The writing is not logically organized. Frequently, ideas fail to make sense together. The reader cannot identify a line of reasoning and loses interest.	In general, the writing is arranged logically, although occasionally ideas fail to make sense together. The reader is fairly clear about what writer intends.	The ideas are arranged logically to support the central purpose or argument. They are usually clearly linked to each other. For the most part, the reader can follow the line of reasoning.	The ideas are arranged logically to support the purpose or argument. They flow smoothly and are clearly linked to each other. The reader can follow the line of reasoning.	
Style	The writing has little personality. The reader quickly loses interest and stops reading.	The writing is dull and unengaging. Though the paper has some interesting parts, the reader finds it difficult to maintain interest.	The writing is generally engaging, but has some dry spots. In general, it is focused and keeps the reader's attention.	The writing is compelling. It hooks the reader and sustains interest throughout.	

Tone	The tone is unprofessional. It is not appropriate for an academic research paper.	The tone is not consistently professional or appropriate for an academic research paper.	The tone is generally professional. For the most part, it is appropriate for an academic research paper.	The tone is consistently professional and appropriate for an academic research paper.	
Grammar, spelling, punctuation, font size, etc.	There are so many errors that meaning is obscured. The reader is confused and stops reading.	The writing has many errors, and the reader is distracted by them.	There are occasional errors, but they don't represent a major distraction or obscure meaning.	The writing is free or almost free of errors.	
Length	Paper is shorter or longer than specified in the assignment.			Paper is the length specified in the assignment.	
Use of References	References are seldom cited to support statements.	Although attributions are occasionally given, many statements seem unsubstantiated. The reader is confused about the source of information and ideas.	Professionally legitimate sources that support claims are generally present and attribution is, for the most part, clear and fairly represented.	Compelling evidence from professionally legitimate sources is given to support claims. Attribution is clear and fairly represented.	
Quality of References	There are virtually no sources that are professionally reliable. The reader seriously doubts the value of the material and stops reading.	Most of the references are from sources that are not peer-reviewed and have uncertain reliability. The reader doubts the accuracy of much of the material presented.	Although most of the references are professionally legitimate, a few are questionable (e.g., trade books, internet sources, popular magazines ...). The reader is uncertain of the reliability of some of the sources.	References are primarily professional journals or other approved sources (e.g., government documents, books,...). The reader is confident that the information and ideas can be trusted.	
Total Score (out of 40)					

Comments: