

Criteria	Excellent	Very Good	Meets Expectation	Needs Improvement
Responsiveness to the Assignment	Clearly and directly, and maybe creatively, addresses all assignment expectations.	Essay generally meets the expectations set out by the assignments. Needs more clarity and directness.	Essay may have not met some expectations set out by the assignments.	Essay does not respond appropriately to the assignments. Writer possibly ignores crucial aspects of the assignments or misunderstands assignment's purpose.
Ideas	Innovative. Ideas are clear, focused on the topic and writer demonstrates a thorough understanding of the concepts discussed.	Ideas are clear, and focused on and relevant to the topic. Participant demonstrates full understanding of the concepts discussed.	Ideas are somewhat clear and basically on topic. Participant demonstrates an adequate understanding of the concepts discussed.	Ideas lack clarity, focus, or relevance to the topic, or demonstrate minimal understanding of the discussed concepts.
Demonstration of Knowledge from Assigned Readings (when applicable)	Very clear that readings were understood and incorporated into responses. Arranged ideas clearly and logically to support the purpose of the argument; ideas are effectively linked.	Readings were mostly understood and incorporated into postings and responses	Postings have questionable relationship to reading material	Not evident that readings were understood and/or not incorporated into the discussion
Grammar and Style	Exceptional grammar and expression. Writing makes a mark on the audience through freshness of style and expression.	Grammar and expression adhere to the norms of standard English. Writing makes a mark on the audience through freshness of style and expression.	College level writing and full sentences with adequate depth to express meaning.	Errors of style or expression and/or awkward sentences impede fluent reading of text. No or little sentence variety; style is often trite or redundant. Lacks full respect for diversity.

