

AWC Written Communication Assessment Rubric

	5	4	3	2	1
Thesis	Provides clear, specific thesis and audience awareness	Provides specific thesis and audience awareness	Provides thesis	Thesis is unclear	No thesis present
Analytical content	Demonstrates original thinking and depth of analysis	Demonstrates analytical ability	Demonstrates partial ability to analyze	Demonstrates little or no analytical ability	Demonstrates no ability to analyze the material
Organization/paragraph development	Uses organization & development of controlling idea with specifics and transitions	Uses organization in most paragraphs, some specifics and transitions.	Uses limited organization, somewhat inconsistent specifics and transitions.	Uses insufficient organization, few specifics, little or no unity or transitions	Uses no visible organization, significant examples or unity within & between paragraphs
Mechanics & syntax	Possesses high proficiency in grammar usage, spelling, punctuation, sentence variety and clarity	Possesses adequate grammatical proficiency, accuracy in mechanics & some variety in sentence structure	Shows grammatical inconsistency, poor spelling, punctuation & moderate use of sentence variety.	Lacks proficiency in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Rare use of sentence variety; poor clarity.	Persistently lacks accuracy in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. No sentence variety; poor clarity.
Format	Format (MLA or APA) is used consistently and correctly	Format (MLA or APA) is mostly used consistently and correctly.	Format (MLA or APA) is moderately used consistently and correctly	Format (MLA or APA) is rarely used consistently or correctly	Format (MLA or APA) is used inconsistently, incorrectly or not at all.

Thesis: The thesis statement establishes the centralizing theme and organization of your paper by identifying your topic and your stance on that topic. The thesis does more than simply state what the topic of the paper is; it announces the particular point of view you will take in analyzing that topic. The goal of your introductory paragraph is to provide the reader with enough information, and interest, to generate your thesis. That is, a well-developed introduction leads to a plausible thesis that will organize your analysis and the remainder of your paper.

Analytical Content: While summary simply reiterates, in a condensed form, what you have read or understood, analysis suggests why and how that topic is of interest and what the implications of that topic might be. In other words, summary tells us what something is about while analysis explains its meaning. The goal of your analysis is to explain to your reader why your topic is important, the significant aspects of that topic, and the impact of that topic.

Organization/

Paragraph Development: In order to present a successful analysis and maintain your reader's interest and understanding it is critical to organize your paper in a logical way. Following your thesis, each paragraph you develop should contain a topic sentence, or mini thesis, that organizes that paragraph and announces to your reader what that paragraph will be about. Each paragraph in your paper should support, explain, or relate to your thesis in some way. Further, any outside sources that are included in your paper need to be introduced and explained so that your ideas, and those of others, flow logically and smoothly throughout your paper.

Mechanics & Syntax: Even the best of ideas and analysis can be overwhelmed by poor mechanics and sentence structure. Complete sentences, proper punctuation, and appropriate word choice all contribute to the clarity of your ideas and the success of your paper. Proofreading and revising your paper, taking it to the Writing Center, and utilizing your grammar and style handbook are the best ways to ensure proficiency in mechanics and syntax.

Format: Following the appropriate style guide requirements for your paper ensures that you have met academic expectations for citing sources both in-text and in your Works Cited (MLA) or References (APA) section. Your grammar and style handbook provides you all of the formatting information you should need; additional online resources are available through the AWC library homepage.