

Grading Rubric for Response Papers (15 points possible)

Academic Honesty

Any evidence of plagiarism = 0 points for entire assignment and referral to Center for Student Conduct

[1] Writing quality (3 points possible)

excellent writing skills: paragraphs have points; sentences well constructed; argument is clear from beginning to end; All specifications met: length 500-750 words; double-spaced; 11-12 pt font; pages numbered; name, SID, GSI name & section #, date, word count provided on 1st page; title indicates which article is focus of paper = 3 points

excellent writing but not all specifications met = 2 points

very good writing: most paragraphs have points; most sentences well constructed; but occasional lapses; all specifications met = 2 points

very good writing but not all specifications met = 1 point

passable writing skills: lapses are more numerous than simply “occasional”: multiple paragraphs have more than one or no point; sentences are sometimes well constructed but often not; argument is difficult if impossible to discern; all specifications met = 1 point

passable writing but not all specifications met = 0 points

not passable writing; spelling errors; incomplete sentences; unclear points; no argument = 0 points

[2] Summary of article (3 points possible)

Complete summary: question of article clearly described; data set or approach included; author’s answer clearly stated = 3 points

Incomplete summary: not all of question, data set or approach, and answer clearly included = 1-2 points

No summary = 0 points

[3] Method of critiquing argument (9 points possible)

a) *Identifying assumptions & replicating argument (4 point possible)*

Excellent: Identifies key assumption & provides clear & complete replication of argument of paper = 4 points

Very good: Properly identifies key assumption, but replication of argument incomplete or flawed = 3 points

Passable: Replicates argument satisfactorily but assumption identified is not crucial to argument = 2 points

Barely Passable: Identifies key assumption but no replication; or, replicates, but without identifying assumptions = 1 point

Not passable: Neither identifies key assumption nor replicates argument = 0 points

b) *Alternative assumption & alternative conclusion (5 points possible)*

Excellent: Offers reasonable alternative assumption, argues to new conclusion, offers suggestions for how to verify validity of alternative assumption = 5 points

Very Good: Offers reasonable alternative assumption, argues to new conclusion, but does not offer suggestions for how to verify validity of alternative assumption = 4 points

Good: Alternative assumption not reasonable, or argument to new conclusion flawed = 3 points

Passable: Offers reasonable alternative assumption, argues to new conclusion, but leaps or flaws of logic in argument = 1-2 point

Not passable: doesn’t get it = 0 points