

Prospectus Grading Guidelines

- F: Inappropriate topic/paper topic not approved
Mechanical errors serious enough to impede comprehensibility
- D: No arguable thesis
No relevant evidence
No counter-argument
Numerous mechanical errors
Paper significantly too short
Paper lacks sufficient sources
- C-: No arguable thesis
Inappropriate counter-argument
Minimal relevant evidence
No explanation of significance
Some mechanical errors
Paper is correct length
Paper has sufficient sources
- C: Minimal attempt to:
 state an arguable thesis
 provide relevant evidence and explain how it supports the thesis
 provide counter-argument or alternative theory with supporting evidence
 provide explanation of significance
Poor construction/organization
- C+: Minimal attempt at an argument and other required elements of the paper (as above for a “C”)
Structure, organization, writing relatively clear
- B-: Arguable thesis (can be problematic)
Substantial evidence, valid and relevant to the thesis
Substantial effort to explain relevance of evidence
Plausible counter-argument or alternative theory presented
Substantial effort to explain significance
Writing can be problematic
- B: Arguable, sound thesis
Most evidence valid and relevant to the thesis
Thorough, if perhaps still problematic, attempt to explain relevance of evidence
Plausible counter-argument or alternative theory reasonably rebutted using evidence cited
Sound but perhaps problematic explanation of significance
Writing relatively clear
- B+: Arguable, sound, strong thesis
All evidence valid and relevant to the thesis
Plausible counter-argument or alternative theory reasonably rebutted
Relevance of most evidence explained clearly
Clear explanation of significance
Writing relatively clear
- A-/A: Arguable, sophisticated thesis
Superior breadth of valid, relevant, well-explained evidence
Superior exploration and rebuttal of plausible counter-argument or alternative theory
Superior explanation of significance
Clear and sophisticated writing