

MMW6 Final Paper Grading Checklist, Spring 2008

- Research Question:**
- Inappropriate -- final paper must be on an approved question in order to pass the course!
 - Appropriate, approved research question
- Length:**
- Significantly too short
 - Significantly too long
 - Appropriate length
- Thesis:**
- No arguable thesis
 - Minimal attempt to state an arguable thesis
 - Arguable but problematic thesis
 - Arguable, sound thesis
 - Arguable, sophisticated thesis
- Use of evidence:**
- No relevant evidence or explanation of how evidence supports the thesis
 - Minimal attempt to provide relevant evidence and explain how it supports the thesis
 - Some valid, relevant evidence and some explanation of how it supports the thesis
 - Adequate relevant evidence and substantial effort to explain how it supports the thesis
 - Thorough presentation of relevant evidence and clear explanation of how it supports the thesis
 - Superior use of valid, relevant evidence; sophisticated explanation of how it supports the thesis
- Counter-argument:**
- No counter-argument
 - Inappropriate counter-argument
 - Minimal attempt at appropriate counter-argument or alternative theory with minimal evidence
 - Substantial attempt at implausible counter-argument or alternative theory with some evidence
 - Plausible counter-argument or alternative theory reasonably rebutted using evidence cited
 - Superior exploration and rebuttal of plausible counter-argument or alternative theory
- Significance:**
- No explanation of the significance of the topic
 - Minimal explanation of significance of the topic
 - Substantial explanation of significance
 - Sound if problematic explanation of significance
 - Clear explanation of significance
 - Superior explanation of significance
- Mechanics/grammar:**
- Mechanical/grammatical errors serious enough to impede comprehensibility
 - Numerous mechanical/grammatical errors
 - Some mechanical/grammatical errors
 - Few mechanical/grammatical errors
 - Negligible mechanical/grammatical errors
- Writing style/clarity:**
- Writing very problematic and/or awkward
 - Writing somewhat problematic and/or awkward
 - Writing relatively clear
 - Clear and sophisticated writing
- Organization:**
- Poor construction/organization
 - Structure and organization relatively clear and sensible
 - Clear and sensible structure and organization
- Sources:**
- Lacks sufficient sources (citation in text and Works Cited list at end):
 - lacks at least five scholarly, non-web, non-encyclopedia, non-dictionary sources
 - lacks a primary source (produced during the course time period)
 - lacks at least one scholarly journal article
 - Relies on sufficient sources