

MMW 121 – Fall 2015
Analytical Essay, Paper #3

- A** Excellent in all or nearly all aspects of the assignment. Demonstrates good research and selection of sources. A well-developed analytical essay that articulates the relationship of the two sources to the topic and assesses their strengths and weaknesses in answering the Level-3 question posed. Student demonstrates clear understanding of the content and argumentation of the sources. Student clearly and confidently articulates his/her own scholarly position, provides clear and convincing evidence to substantiate this position, and clearly explains the significance of this position. In developing the argument, student effectively addresses alternative or counter-arguments. Student summarizes and paraphrases well and uses direct quotations precisely, sparingly, and overall effectively; correct citations are included. Paper is written with clarity, sophistication, and good organization; it is relatively free of errors. A Works Cited page is included.
- B** Meets, and at times exceeds, the basic requirements of the assignment. Student identifies an appropriate topic and poses a Level-3 research question. Sources selected are appropriate and offer two different answers to the question posed. Student demonstrates a good, if not always precise, understanding of the content of the sources, the scholars' arguments, and the scholar's method of argumentation. Student advances his/her own scholarly position (thesis), provides evidence (even if problematic) to substantiate this position, and attempts to explain the significance of this position. In advancing his/her own argument, the student addresses alternative or counter-arguments. Student summarizes and paraphrases well and uses direct quotations effectively; citations are generally correct. There might be minor errors in content and argumentation or problems with clarity, specificity, and/or organization. A Works Cited page is included.
- C** Minimally meets all of the basic requirements of the assignment. Student has submitted a **five- to six-page** analytical essay that makes a **minimal attempt to examine the relationship** of **two academic sources** to an **appropriate identified topic** and a **research question**. Student makes a **minimal attempt** to:
- select sources with **two different answers** to the question posed
 - demonstrate a **basic understanding of the content, argument and method of argumentation** in the two sources.
 - advance an argument with a **thesis**, even if this is vague or problematic
 - incorporate components of argumentation including: **alternative argument/counter-argument, evidence, and significance** of student's argument
 - use **citations** correctly (or student uses too many direct quotations, at the expense of his/her own writing, even if citations are generally correct in **MLA format**).
- Relies too heavily on in-class sources relative to analysis of academic sources. Writing lacks clarity and/or is somewhat problematic. Paper contains some errors in content or argumentation. **A Works Cited page** is included.
- D** Minimally meets several of the basic requirements of the assignment, but what is missing is substantial. For example:
- student does not analyze *two* academic sources, or student includes outside sources that are prohibited in this assignment (for example, scholarly sources beyond the two source requirement).
 - there is no research question.

- there is no Works Cited page.
- student does not demonstrate a basic understanding of the content and argument of the sources.
- there is no thesis, or student makes no attempt to advance own scholarly position.

Paper is poorly organized and/or writing is problematic. Citations are missing where necessary, or there are significant errors in citations.

F Meets very few, if any, of the basic requirements of the assignment and what is missing is substantial (see D above). The paper is significantly too short. Writing is poorly organized and incomprehensible. Paper lacks citations.

Standard Deductions. The MMW Program Policies explains the standard deductions for common problems including formatting issues, page number limitations, spelling/grammar problems, documentation errors, etc.