**English Department**

**4000-Level Assessment Rubric**

**Score the essay with a “4” if it**

*Organization*

* Flows well and makes sense
* Includes a strong thesis
* Develops a strong line of argument
* Uses sources to support the argument
* Displays innovative thinking about the topic

*Mechanics*

* Uses MLA formatting and citation practices at a near-perfect level
* Integrates and interprets sources correctly
* Is error-free in grammar or mechanics

*Overall impression*

The thesis and the writing synthesize disciplinary knowledge in an engaging way. We can take pride in having this student represent the quality of our program.

**Score the essay with a “3” if it**

*Organization*

* Flows well and makes sense
* Includes a clear thesis
* Contains a coherent line of argument
* Uses some sources to support the argument, but could use more
* Exhibits good thinking about the topic

*Mechanics*

* Uses appropriate MLA formatting and citations practices with few errors
* Integrates sources in an acceptable manner
* Includes few errors in grammar or mechanics

*Overall impression*

The student’s writing is a satisfactory example of the department’s goals and standards.

**Score the essay with a “2” if it**

*Organization*

* Lacks flow and loses coherence
* Has a weak or trite thesis
* Attempts a line of argument, but fails to support it well
* Integrates sources haphazardly, if at all
* Displays a lack of thinking deeply about the subject

*Mechanics*

* Displays problems with MLA formatting and citation practices
* Fails to integrate sources adequately
* Exhibits many grammatical or mechanical errors

*Overall Impression*

The thesis of the essay lacks the writer’s engagement and is not engaging to the reader. The essay does not represent the goals and standards of the department.

**Score the essay with a “1” if it**

*Organization*

* Lacks cohesion and flow
* Neglects an appropriate thesis
* Fails to exhibit an argument or lacks supporting detail
* Ignores sources or integrates them poorly
* Displays little critical thinking about the topic

*Mechanics*

* Misapplies MLA formatting and citation practices
* Contains errors that impede the reader’s ability to interpret meaning

*Overall Impression*

This essay lacks sufficient thinking or contains significant mechanical problems. It represents the department’s goals and standards for senior-level writing poorly.

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