

Student Learning Outcome #5a Written Communication/Critical Thinking

A student proficient in written communication writes skillfully with a thorough awareness of context, audience, and purpose

CRITERIA	Accomplished	Proficient	Developing	Beginning
Question or Problem	Precise description of question or problem & its relevant contextual information.	Reasonable description of question or problem & its context.	Sketchy description of question or problem, some contextual information.	Incomplete or missing description of question or problem; little or no context.
Thesis/ Position	Compelling thesis; examines its complexities & limitations; proposes to test assumptions.	Thoughtful thesis; acknowledges its complexities & questions assumptions.	Adequate thesis; touches on its complexities & assumptions.	Unclear or inadequate thesis; oversimplifies or overlooks its complexities & assumptions.
Content Development	Original, well-conceived ideas drawn from strong control of disciplinary knowledge & specialized terms.	Well-synthesized ideas based on good control of disciplinary knowledge & specialized terms.	Acceptable ideas, but they reflect uneven control of disciplinary knowledge & specialized terms.	Fuzzy or misinformed ideas that show very limited control of disciplinary knowledge, misuse of specialized terms.
Sources & Evidence	High-quality sources or evidence, multiple views represented, well-evaluated & integrated; correct citation.	Reliable, balanced sources or evidence, accurately represented & integrated; minimal citation errors.	Relevant sources or evidence, fairly represented, but in need of better integration; citation problems.	Minimal sources or evidence, not always relevant or at times misrepresented; incorrect citations.
Format	Logical format follows disciplinary conventions. Strategic placement of figures or electronic links, if needed.	Organized format with orderly transitions. Helpful placement of figures or links, if needed.	Appropriate but disjointed format. Figures or links, if needed, could be better placed.	Disorganized or truncated format. Figures or links, if needed, not well placed or relevant.
Conclusions	Insightful conclusion consistent with content & thesis; reflects on outcomes & implications.	Justified conclusion, connected to development of content & thesis.	Predictable conclusion, drawn to fit a desired end.	Conclusion inconsistent with content, oversimplified, or too abrupt.
Syntax & Editing	Well-crafted, varied sentences; grammatically fluent, carefully edited.	Syntactically clear sentences; few grammatical errors or typos.	Readable but sometimes confusing sentences; distracting errors or typos.	Unclear or poorly constructed sentences; frequent errors or typos that impede meaning.