

Grading Rubric for Papers (79-201)

Marie Norman, Introduction to Anthropology, Carnegie Mellon University

| | Sophisticated | Highly Competent | Fairly Competent | Not Yet Competent |
|---------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Depth of analysis | <p>Paper goes beyond the assignment to explore the implications of arguments or evidence in new contexts or in particularly thoughtful, insightful, and/or original ways.</p> <p>Paper shows a nuanced grasp of anthropological principles and the ability to apply these principles with facility.</p> | <p>Paper fully meets the parameters of the assignment but does not exceed them. (and/or...)</p> <p>Paper demonstrates a good grasp of anthropological principles but some awkwardness applying them.</p> | <p>Paper does not address some aspects of the assignment. (and/or...)</p> <p>Paper demonstrates a somewhat shaky grasp of anthropological principles.</p> | <p>Paper does not address the assignment. (and/or...)</p> <p>Paper is inconsistent with anthropological principles (i.e. it makes or fails to challenge ethnocentric assumptions.)</p> |
| Grasp of reading(s) | <p>Paper represents the authors' arguments, evidence and conclusions accurately, fairly and eloquently. Demonstrates a firm understanding of the implications of the author's arguments.</p> | <p>Paper represents the author's arguments, evidence and conclusions accurately.</p> | <p>Paper represents the authors' arguments, evidence and conclusions accurately though not sufficiently clearly. (and/or...)</p> <p>There are minor inaccuracies.</p> | <p>Paper badly misrepresents the authors' arguments, evidence, and/or conclusions.</p> |
| Thesis paragraph | <p>Clearly and eloquently identifies a demonstrable and nuanced central argument.</p> <p>Provides the reader with a clear sense of the nature of evidence that will follow.</p> <p>Reveals the organizational structure of the paper.</p> <p>Guides the reader smoothly and logically into the body of the paper.</p> | <p>Thesis paragraph clearly identifies a demonstrable central argument.</p> <p>Gives the reader a reasonably good sense of the nature of evidence that will follow.</p> | <p>Thesis paragraph identifies a central argument that is demonstrable, though not stated sufficiently clearly. (and/or...)</p> <p>Does not guide the reader into the body of the paper.</p> | <p>Thesis paragraph does not have a discernable central argument (and/or...)</p> <p>The argument is not demonstrable.</p> |
| Evidence | <p>Evidence used to support the central point is rich, detailed and well chosen.</p> <p>Evidence sections employ appropriate illustrations and/or quotations.</p> <p>The connection between argument</p> | <p>Evidence used to support the central point is well chosen, though not particularly rich or detailed.</p> <p>The connection between argument and evidence is clearly</p> | <p>Connection between argument and evidence is not clearly articulated in all cases. (and/or...)</p> <p>(Where applicable) Consideration of opposing evidence is cursory</p> | <p>Evidence used does not clearly support the main argument. (and/or...)</p> <p>(Where applicable) Important opposing evidence is ignored, thereby weakening the central argument.</p> |

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| | and evidence is clearly and compellingly articulated in all cases. (Where applicable) Important opposing evidence (i.e. evidence that might seem to contradict your argument) is considered and convincingly refuted. | articulated. (Where applicable) Some opposing evidence is considered and refuted. | or the evidence is not convincingly refuted. | |
| Conclusion | Elegantly synthesizes and reframes key points from the paper. Suggests new perspectives or questions relevant to the central argument, and brings closure. | Synthesizes and brings closure but does not examine new perspectives or questions. | Restates the same points as the topic paragraph without reframing them. (and/or...) Introduces new material rather than new perspectives. | Is missing or cursory. (and/or...) Repeats the topic paragraph more-or-less verbatim. |
| Organization | Organization of paper as a whole is logical and quickly apparent. Connections among paragraphs are clearly articulated. Transitions between paragraphs are smooth. Every paragraph makes one distinct and coherent point, expressed in a clear topic sentence; the parts of each paragraph connect logically and persuasively, and internal transitions are smooth. | Organization of paper as a whole is logical and apparent, but transitions between paragraphs are not consistently smooth. Every paragraph makes one distinct and coherent point and, for the most part, the parts of each paragraph connect logically and effectively. In all but a few cases, the paragraph's point is expressed in a clear topic sentence. | Organization of the paper as a whole can only be discerned with effort. (and/or...) Not all parts of the paper fit the organizational structure. (and/or...) Not all the parts of the paper are effectively integrated. In a number of paragraphs, there is not a distinct or coherent point. (and/or) Topic sentences are missing or unclear in a number of paragraphs. (and/or) In a number of paragraphs, the parts do not connect logically. | Organization of the paper as a whole is not logical or discernable. |

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| Clarity | <p>Throughout the paper, wording is precise and unambiguous.</p> <p>Sentence structure is consistently clear and lucid.</p> <p>Quotations are all framed effectively in the text (i.e. integrated properly in terms of both grammar and meaning) and explicated where necessary.</p> | <p>Paper is for the most part precisely worded and unambiguous.</p> <p>Sentence structure is mostly clear.</p> <p>Quotations are framed effectively in the text.</p> | <p>Wording is imprecise or ambiguous fairly often. (and/or...)</p> <p>Sentence structure is often confusing. (and/or...)</p> <p>Quotations are not framed effectively in the text.</p> | <p>Throughout the paper, wording is imprecise or ambiguous. (and/or...)</p> <p>Sentence structure is consistently confusing.</p> |
| Mechanics | <p>Paper is clean and appropriately formatted.</p> <p>There are no incomplete or run-on sentences.</p> <p>Quotes are all properly attributed and cited.</p> <p>There are virtually no spelling or grammatical errors.</p> | <p>There are a few minor spelling or grammatical errors.</p> <p>Quotes are all properly attributed and cited.</p> | <p>There are a number of spelling and grammatical errors. (and/or)</p> <p>In a few places, quotes are not attributed and cited.</p> | <p>Paper is unacceptably sloppy. (and/or...)</p> <p>Quotes are frequently not attributed or improperly cited.</p> |

COMMENTS: _____
