ENG 210-27

Dr. Beatty

May, 2021

# Grading Form for Final Papers

Emphasis on each of the following will vary depending on the type of assignment, but these basic considerations hold in all cases:

1. **Coherence/topic**: Paper has a clear topic and a claim or thesis statement on that topic. Topic is two-sided or open to debate. There is a title. Arguments are two-sided with concessions.
2. **Structure**: The paper is well organized with an introduction, a body, and a conclusion that reiterates the research question and an answer to it. The body comprehensively covers relevant information/facts in a balanced way. The paper is 9+ pages including Works Cited. Pages are numbered.
3. **Research/citations**: Proper use is made of source material and quotes, with in-text citations and a matching Works Cited list that follow APA style. All citations are in the list and all sources in the list are cited. Sources number 12+, 2+ “books,” 2+ scholarly articles, 2+ periodicals, and include recent ones. Paper does not rely too much on one or two sources.
4. **Flow**/**transitions**: The paper progresses in logical order from section to section and paragraph to paragraph. Use is made of turn words (“however”) bridge words (“In addition”), or repeated key words or synonyms (“The crowd gathered … The mob then began …”).
5. **Paragraphs**: Paragraphs are of reasonable length and are coherent units with no sentence non sequiturs. Where necessary, they end with a summary or concluding sentence. No extra spaces after paragraphs.
6. **Sentence structure**: Run-on sentences and sentence fragments are not present. Sentences are varied in length and tone. There is occasional use of devices such as passive voice or prepositional phrases to provide variety. Parallel structure is used. Mixed (illogical) constructions and dangling modifiers are avoided. Sentences tend to start with the actor (subject).
7. **Word choices**: Appropriate choices are the norm, with no homonyms (sound-alikes) or non sequiturs. Word choice is sensitive to all readers’ concerns.
8. **Clutter,** such as redundant words, empty phrases, unnecessary articles, and prepositional phrases, is minimal.
9. **Clarity**: Related to Item 6, unclear pronouns and other referents are avoided. Unclear or misplaced modifiers are avoided. Tense is used consistently.
10. **Editing**: The paper is clear of typographical errors (spelling) plus “non-spell-check” errors and missing words. It has been proofread. Punctuation and capitalization are properly used.
11. **Grammar**: In addition to errors of grammar covered in Item 6, the paper is mostly free of errors in agreement (subject/verb, noun/pronoun) and case.
12. **Style**: The paper “reads well,” sounding good aloud, avoiding repetition of words in a sentence or nearby sentences, and adopting a tone that is not too personal (third-person only), reliant on slang, nor too formal or absolute.