

ENGLISH 1301: Composition and Rhetoric I
WRITING STANDARDS
 Suzy Page, Associate Professor of English

NOTE: All written work must adhere to *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Sixth Edition*.

Evaluation Categories	ESSAY EXPECTATIONS	Self-Evaluation Essay #1	Self-Evaluation Essay #2	Self-Evaluation Essay #3
Thesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clearly articulates the central thesis ➤ Thesis shows critical intelligence ➤ Perspective taken in thesis is original and insightful ➤ Thesis is appropriately narrowed 			
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Captures the reader's interest in the topic ➤ Suggests the topic's relevance/importance ➤ Serves as a preview to the essay's structure ➤ States the thesis! 			
Paragraph Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Paragraphs are coherent ➤ Paragraphs are fully developed ➤ Development supports topic sentence ➤ Development is well substantiated with reliable, relevant support ➤ Clear transitions move the reader smoothly from point to point 			

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Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Writer responds to readers' needs and values ➤ Topic is placed in context so it is precisely understood ➤ Evidence presented motivates the reader to critically reflect and analyze both simple and complex points embedded in the writing ➤ Tone is appropriate for the purpose and audience 			
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gives the essay a feeling of completeness ➤ Re-emphasizes the thesis ➤ Flows naturally out of the body of the paper ➤ Leaves the reader with strong impressions of the importance of what has been discussed in the essay 			

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Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Writer speaks in a way that is individualistic, expressive, and engaging ➤ The projected tone creates a strong sense of interaction between reader and writer and serves to give flavor to the writer's message 			
Sentence Fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Writing has an easy flow and rhythm when read aloud ➤ Sentences are well built with consistently strong and varied structure that make reading easy and enjoyable ➤ Purposeful sentence beginnings guide the reader ➤ Variation in sentence structure and length adds interest to the essay 			

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Word Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Words convey ideas in an interesting, precise, and natural way ➤ Powerful verbs give writing energy ➤ Language is natural and never overdone ➤ Expression is fresh and appealing 			
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Essay structure is compelling and moves the reader through the essay ➤ Introduction, conclusion, and transitions are strong and clear ➤ All paragraphs contain topic sentences ➤ Pacing is well controlled ➤ Each paragraph directly supports the thesis 			

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<p>Mechanics and Usage</p> <p>Avoids distracting readers and applies the “EPS” System:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Edit ▪ Proofread ▪ Spell Check 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Demonstrates a good grasp of standard writing conventions: grammar, capitalization, punctuation, usage, and spelling ➤ Avoids awkward sentence constructions ➤ ALL fragments, run-ons, and comma splices have been corrected ➤ Sources, if used, are always appropriately documented and cited ➤ Uses “first” and “third” correctly 			