

The Historical Conversations Project

Traits	Evaluative Criteria	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Below Average
Rhetoric & Communication						
Thesis or Problem Statement:	The composition clearly presents, describes and analyzes a significant political/social/cultural problem. It establishes, explains, and argues its topic, its motives, and its positions with levels of sophistication and clarity appropriate to the level of its course and this particular assignment.					
Historical Dimensions:	Historical aspects deepen the relevance of the problem and enhance the arguments. The historical presentation is woven seamlessly into the flow of the narrative. The composition describes and deciphers relevant historical contexts and offers telling pieces of historical evidence that put the past in clear conversation with the problem in the present.					
Argumentation (Written):	Explores, summarizes, and evaluates various debates, perspectives, and arguments, and provides critical, scholarly definitions of terms and concepts central to this discourse. For the level of this course and for this particular assignment, the arguments are sophisticated, creative, persuasive, insightful, and deeply embedded in scholarly and credible discourses.					
Argumentation (Multi-modal):	Uses various types of evidence and/or genres to create multi-modal elements that strengthen and deepen explanations, summaries, and arguments.					
Arrangement of Evidence:	The presentation of evidence is arranged coherently and demonstrates a well-documented analytical synthesis.					
Evidence & Information Literacy						
Research (both traditional and new media)	The sources demonstrate a sense for locating, selecting, and organizing sources. The body of sources supporting the composition is well developed and varied in source type.					

Credibility & Timeliness	The selected sources are both credible and timely and offer clear support to all of the composition's argumentative moves.					
Source Use and Integration	The composition uses sources appropriately in distinct and different capacities: primary/secondary, exhibit/argument/background. The author integrates the sources seamlessly into the composition. The author effectively uses sources of different types in support of a clearly and deftly delivered analytical synthesis.					
Documentation	All uses of evidence are documented and formatted appropriately, and the author recognizes instances when citations are needed.					
Annotations & Evaluations	The annotations and source evaluations are well developed and help to demonstrate the author's control over all of the sources used.					
Style, Mechanics, & Conventions						
Clarity, Sentence Structure, & Readability	The writing is clear, eloquent, characterized by precise word choices, purposeful sentences with varied structure, and a high degree of readability for the level of its course and this particular assignment.					
Narrative Development	The narrative is deliberately paced, and demonstrates a very high degree of skill and control when moving from idea to idea, paragraph to paragraph, and sentence to sentence.					
Grammar, Usage, Punctuation, & Spelling	The prose is mechanically correct and free of errors in punctuation, grammar, spelling, and usage.					