

## **Grading Scale for 1<sup>st</sup> Narrative Assignment**

### **For answers worth 15 points**

A (13.5-15); B (12-13); C (10.5-11); D (9)

### **For answers worth 10 points**

A (9-10); B (8); C (7); D (6)

### **For answers worth 5 points**

A (4.5-5); B (4); C (3); D (2)

## **A=Superior**

**Convincingly communicates a noteworthy idea to the reader through sophisticated use of rhetorical strategies.**

- **Thesis/focus:** demonstrates an awareness of audience, specific in its argument, and clearly established and maintained throughout.
- **Organization:** has a clear sense of logical order appropriate to the content and the thesis.
- **Development:** demonstrates critical thinking that is clear, insightful, in depth, and relevant to the topic.
- **Syntax and Diction:** uses sophisticated and appropriate language that engages the reader; manipulates sentence length to enhance the total effect of the essay; uses precise language that expresses complex ideas clearly.
- **Format and Design:** fully integrates elements of design to best serve rhetorical purpose.
- **Research (if applicable):** uses sources effectively and documents sources accurately.
- **Mechanics:** contains very few errors of spelling, grammar, paragraphing or manuscript format.

## **B=Strong**

**Effectively conveys an insightful idea to the reader through consistent and controlled use of rhetorical strategies.**

- **Thesis/focus:** intelligent, specific, clearly established, and consistently addressed throughout.
- **Organization:** logical, clear, and controlled.
- **Development:** demonstrates critical thinking that is more than adequate, with significant detail; may show depth in thinking and research.
- **Syntax and Diction:** demonstrates knowledge of and skill with complex and varied sentence constructions and vocabulary.

- **Format and Design:** consistently contributes to the persuasive aims of the assignment.
- **Research (if applicable):** uses sources effectively and documents accurately.
- **Mechanics:** may contain errors, but these errors do not interfere with the essay's overall effectiveness.

#### **C=Competent**

**Communicates an idea, but does not consistently address the needs of its audience.**

- **Thesis/focus:** has a central idea that is conventional or general.
- **Organization:** the essay's organization is choppy and may, at times, be difficult to follow.
- **Development:** demonstrates limited critical thinking and limited knowledge of the subject.
- **Syntax and Diction:** demonstrates competency with language use, but sentence constructions and vocabulary may be limited or repetitive.
- **Format and Design:** unevenly incorporates elements of design to aid its argument
- **Research (if applicable):** lacks sufficient research for the topic, poorly incorporates sources, or fails to document accurately
- **Mechanics:** contains multiple errors that hinder the essay's readability.

#### **D=Inadequate**

**Ineffectively communicates its idea to the reader**

- **Thesis/focus:** superficial and inconsistently addressed; reveals limited awareness of audience
- **Organization:** reveals no apparent strategy and lapses in focus and logic.
- **Development:** displays little knowledge of the subject, does not form conclusions, or fails to exhibit critical thinking or clear reasoning.
- **Syntax and Diction:** contains repetitive, incorrect, or ineffective sentence structure; displays a limited vocabulary.
- **Format and Design:** bears little relevance to the assignment's rhetorical purpose or guidelines.
- **Research (if applicable):** lacks sufficient research for the topic, poorly incorporates sources, or fails to document sources accurately.
- **Mechanics:** contains many errors that garble the meaning or intent.

#### **F=Incompetent**

**Fails to present its ideas to the audience and does not meet some or all of the criteria for the assignment.**

- **Thesis/focus:** lacks a central idea; has no awareness, or limited awareness, its audience and purpose.
- **Organization:** random and without focus or logic.
- **Development:** displays little or no knowledge of the subject, does not form conclusions, or fails to exhibit critical thinking or clear reasoning
- **Syntax and Diction:** fails to demonstrate competency with language use; sentence constructions and vocabulary may be inappropriate, facile, or incoherent.
- **Format and Design:** makes no attempt to use the elements of design to help persuade its audiences
- **Research (if applicable):** fails to include sufficient sources for topic, incorporates irrelevant or inadequate sources, or plagiarizes.
- **Mechanics:** contains serious and multiple errors that seriously hinder the reading of the paper