**Grading Rubric for English 2320**

**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**