How to Format Discussion Essays

Scroll All the Way Down

Essay

1. The **thesis** must be underlined and make an argument that can be refuted (meaning, don't point out obvious things; a reasonable person ought to be able to disagree with the argument given the same evidence).
   1. Thesis must be specific and say what you claim, how it works, and why it's important.
   2. It may be up to 2 sentences long, but not more.
2. **Claims and Evidence**: to prove your argument you must make claims that are then supported by evidence from the readings, viewings, or podcasts.
   1. We need direct quotes from the articles (with page #s when available)
   2. You may paraphrase closely from a video or podcast but give us a time-stamp (ex: 7:06-7:45)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| table explaining requirements for each of the grade ranges as far as number of claims and type of evidence used | |
| **Specs Grade** | **# of Claims & Evidence** |
| A | 3 claims supported by 3 pieces of evidence (with pg#s when available, or time-stamps) |
| B | 2 claims supported by 2 pieces of evidence (with pg#s when available, or time-stamps) |
| C | 1 claim supported by 1 piece of evidence (with pg# when available, or time-stamp) |
| F | no distinct claims, no direct quote or paraphrase, |

**SU19 A100 Discussion Rubric**

| SU19 A100 Discussion Rubric | |
| --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Ratings** |
| This criterion is linked to a Learning OutcomeUnderlined thesis/argument | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **For an A range grade**  The underlined thesis answers the question clearly with respect to the assigned materials by explaining the significance of the analysis of these sources | **For a B range grade**  The underlined thesis answers the question only at a surface level, by summarizing the content of assigned material without adding anything new or explaining significance. | **For a C range grade**  The underlined thesis answers the question in general terms about his/her own beliefs or opinion; | **For an F**  Does not answer the question directly. | |
| This criterion is linked to a Learning OutcomeMakes Distinct Claims to support thesis/argument | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **For an A range grade**  Makes 3 distinct claims that further the argument and demonstrate the ability to synthesize the assigned texts into a complex understanding. | **For a B range grade**  Makes 2 clear claims that engage with assigned texts but at a surface level. | **For a C range grade**  Makes 1 identifiable claim but does not refer to specifics about the assigned materials. | **For an F range grade**  Essay is either off-topic or there are no distinct claims made. Only statements of belief or opinion with no connection to any of the assigned content. | |
| This criterion is linked to a Learning OutcomeTextual Evidence in Support of Claims | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **For an A range grade**  Provides 3 in-depth specific examples and explains how they prove his/her claims. DIRECT QUOTES only from written materials (cite page #s when available). May use close paraphrase for video or podcast with time-stamps) | **For a B range grade**  Provides 2 brief and specific examples as evidence. DIRECT QUOTES only from written materials (cite page #s when available). May use close paraphrase for video or podcast with time-stamps) | **For a C range grade**  Cites 1 example as evidence. DIRECT QUOTES only from written materials (cite page #s when available). May use close paraphrase for video or podcast with time-stamps) | **For an F range grade**  Gives no concrete examples | |
| This criterion is linked to a Learning OutcomePeer comments | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **For an A range grade**  Substantive comments on 2 peers' posts that include 3Cs + Q: Compliment, Comment, Connect, Question. Only get full points if essay is 400-420 words. Shorter essays with 2 peer comments will not receive extra points | **For a B range grade**  Substantive comments on 1 peer's post that include 3Cs + Q: Compliment, Comment, Connect, Question. Essay must be B length to earn this. A longer essay with only 1 peer post will only earn up to a B range grade. Shorter essays will not earn a B even if there's one peer post. | **For a C range grade**  For a C grade No comments required if essay is 250-270 words. An essay that is A or B range length but has no peer comments may only earn up to a C range grade | **For an F grade**  Essays shorter than the length of a C range essay and also include no comments will earn this. | |
| This criterion is linked to a Learning OutcomeWord limits | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **For an A range**  390-410 words. We are strict about word limits | **For a B range grade**  290-310 words | **For a C range grade**  240-260 words | **For an F**  Fewer than 240 words | |