

Rubric for Writing Assignments

POSSIBLE POINTS	CRITERIA
90–100	The assignment is engaging, concise, and polished. An attention-grabbing headline and a clear topic sentence in the first paragraph introduce the reader to the subject. Factual details, visual elements, quotations, and/or the proper use of scientific terminology add clarity and interest to the assignment.
80–89	The assignment is well written. An attention-grabbing headline and a clear topic sentence in the first paragraph introduce the reader to the subject. Factual details, visual elements, quotations, and/or the proper use of scientific terminology add clarity and interest to the assignment. Sometimes, the writing is slightly repetitive or unclear, but the writer demonstrates a good understanding of the subject matter.
70–79	The assignment is fairly well written and clear, but several errors indicate that the author may not have a complete understanding of the subject. Factual details, visual elements, quotations, and/or the proper use of scientific terminology are used.
60–69	The assignment has several significant problems in style and content. The topic is never clearly stated, scientific terms are misused, and misspelled words are present. Inadequate or incorrect use of factual details, visual elements, or quotations seems to indicate that the author does not have a solid understanding of the subject.
10–59	Although the assignment has been attempted, the author has clearly not put forth much effort. The writing is unclear, unfocused, and vague. A topic sentence is not given or is not adequately supported with details. The author has not used scientific terminology correctly and has introduced false statements and errors in writing style that make reading this work very difficult.
0	No work was completed.

POSSIBLE POINTS	SCIENTIFIC THOUGHT (40 points possible)
36–40	complete understanding of topic; topic extensively researched; variety of primary and secondary sources used and cited; proper and effective use of scientific vocabulary and terminology
31–35	good understanding of topic; topic well researched; a variety of sources used and cited; good use of scientific vocabulary and terminology
26–30	acceptable understanding of topic; adequate research evident; sources cited; adequate use of scientific terms
21–25	poor understanding of topic; inadequate research; little use of scientific terms
0–20	lacks an understanding of topic; very little research, if any; incorrect use of scientific terms