

Grading Rubric for STM papers

Date: _____

Student name: _____

Paper topic: _____

Area of Study: _____

Paper supervisor: _____

Dimension	4	3	2	1
1. Substantive question or problem	The paper creatively articulates a question or problem in a manner that advances the chosen area of study.	The paper identifies and clearly articulates a question or problem.	The paper's question or problem is not entirely coherent and/or is developed with uneven degrees of competence.	The paper lacks a substantive question or problem.
2. Clearly defined thesis	The paper contains a compelling thesis that is clearly articulated and skillfully developed.	The paper contains a coherent thesis that is articulated and developed with reasonable competence.	The paper's thesis is not entirely coherent, and it is articulated and developed with uneven degrees of competence.	The paper lacks a thesis.
3. Quality of critical reflection	The paper reveals a thorough and critical engagement of the relevant subject matter.	The paper reveals an adequate and critical engagement of the relevant subject matter.	The paper reveals an inadequate and uncritical engagement of the relevant subject matter.	The paper consistently fails to engage the relevant subject matter.
4. Support from relevant sources	The arguments are convincingly supported by skillful referencing and interpretation of appropriate sources, reflecting an excellent grasp of the relevant scholarly literature.	The arguments are adequately supported by appropriate sources, reflecting a substantial grasp of the relevant scholarly literature.	The arguments are unevenly supported by appropriate sources, reflecting an imperfect grasp of the relevant scholarly literature.	The arguments are not supported by appropriate sources, reflecting a lack of engagement with the relevant scholarly literature.

5. Appropriateness of research methods	The paper utilizes a research methodology that is fully appropriate to the field and the thesis.	The paper utilizes a research methodology that is largely appropriate to the field and the thesis.	The paper does not adequately use accepted methodologies.	The paper has no discernible methodology.
6. Writing/ communication	The paper reflects mastery of the arts of scholarly writing and communication: organization, style, grammar, punctuation, spelling, diction, formatting, and citation.	The paper reflects competence in the arts of scholarly writing and communication: organization, style, grammar, punctuation, spelling, diction, formatting, and citation.	The paper reflects deficiencies in some aspects of scholarly writing and communication skills.	The paper reflects a general lack of scholarly writing and communication skills.
7. Diverse Contexts	The paper reveals a thorough awareness of the diverse social and cultural contexts of the subject matter.	The paper reveals an adequate awareness of the diverse social and cultural contexts of the subject matter.	The paper reveals an inadequate grasp of the diverse social and cultural contexts of the subject matter.	The paper consistently fails to grasp the diverse social and cultural contexts of the subject matter.

Total Rubric Points	28	27–26	25–24	23–21	20–19	18–17	16–14	13 and below
Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	Not qualifying

Comments:

Optional comments on preparedness for further graduate work	The process of proposing, researching, drafting, editing and writing the paper indicates the student is excellently prepared for further graduate work.	The process of proposing, researching, drafting, editing and writing the paper indicates the student is reasonably well prepared for further graduate work.	The process of proposing, researching, drafting, editing and writing the paper indicates the student needs significant additional preparation for further graduate work.	The process of proposing, researching, drafting, editing and writing the paper indicates the student is unlikely to succeed in further graduate work.
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