

TEAGLE RUBRIC

May 2006

	Unacceptable 1	Beginning 2	Competent 3	Skilled 4	Exemplary 5
MAIN IDEA/ THESIS	Overall position is not evident. Topic as expressed is superficial, trite, or clichéd.	Overall position is evident, but often simplistic. Topic is simplistic and one-dimensional.	Overall position is clear with a sense of developed ideas. Topic is interesting and significant, but not deeply explored in all needed areas.	Overall position is clear and developed. Topic is interesting, significant, and is engaged from several angles.	Overall position is well-articulated and developed with appropriate supporting evidence. Topic is interesting, significant and intellectually challenging with multiple facets addressed.
ARGUMENT	No argumentative structure is evident. Ideas are unconnected.	Argumentative structure is rudimentary. Claims are repeated rather than developed. Few to no objections to claims are addressed or with misrepresentations.	Argumentative structure is evident but sometimes simplistic. Objections are addressed but formulaically.	Argumentative structure is evident. Objections are taken seriously and typically addressed fair-mindedly.	Argumentative structure is clearly evident. Objections are taken seriously and addressed fair-mindedly and with great skill.
EVIDENCE	Claims are not supported by reliable evidence from credible sources, making the paper unconvincing.	Some claims are supported by valid, reliable evidence, but support is inconsistent, making the paper less than convincing.	Claims are typically supported by valid, reliable evidence from credible sources, making the paper for the most part convincing.	Claims are almost always supported by valid, reliable sources, so that the paper is generally convincing.	Claims are supported by reliable, valid evidence from credible sources and effectively synthesized in a very convincing manner.
ORGANIZATION	Ideas appear unconnected. Paper shows serious lack of unity and coherence. Introduction and /or conclusion may be weak, trite, or nonexistent.	The paper is organized, though simplistically. An introduction and conclusion are attempted but are perfunctory or formulaic. The introduction includes an overly general thesis, and the conclusion simply restates that thesis.	The introduction sets a context for the paper, states a thesis, though in a predictable way. Main points are logically structured. Transitions provide coherence, but may be formulaic (first, second, third, etc.). The conclusion summarizes the paper, but does not explore implications or significance.	The introduction sets the context for the paper, states a clear thesis. Main points are clear and logically structured. Transitions provide a sense of coherence. The conclusion summarizes the paper and makes some effort to explore implications and significance.	The introduction skillfully captures reader attention and sets the context for the paper. The thesis is clear and effective. Main points are clear and logically structured. Transitions provide a sense of coherence. The conclusion summarizes the paper, and explores implications and significance.
READABILITY	Awkward phrasing, unskilled or inappropriate voice/tone, and unsophisticated and/or imprecise vocabulary hinder understanding.	Awkward phrasing, unskilled or inappropriate voice/tone, and unsophisticated and/or imprecise vocabulary distract from the paper's ideas.	Phrasing is generally competent; voice/tone and vocabulary are generally suitable for the paper's ideas and only occasionally work against its ideas.	Clear phrasing, appropriate shifts in voice and tone, and vocabulary enhance the paper's ideas.	Skilled phrasing, appropriate shifts in voice and tone, and apt word choice create an inviting paper.
CONVENTIONS	Numerous errors in grammar, usage, spelling and punctuation seriously impede meaning. Necessary documentation is missing.	Several errors in grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation distract the reader and impede meaning. Problems with needed documentation exist.	Errors in grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation are noticeable, but do not seriously impede the reader. Documentation is usually correct.	There are occasional errors in grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation that do not impede the reader. Documentation of sources is correct.	There are very few or no mechanical errors in the paper. Documentation of sources is correct.
OVERALL IMPRESSION	The writer is unable to construct and present a significant position.	The writer presents a significant position that finally falls short of being convincing.	The writer presents a significant position that is generally convincing, but has some weaknesses.	The writer presents a significant and thoughtful position that is for the most part convincing.	The writer presents a significant and thoughtful position that is both convincing and thought-provoking.