

Senior Portfolio Rubric Department of English

Please use this rubric as a guide when evaluating the writing in senior portfolios and when completing the **Portfolio Response Sheet**. It is a holistic rubric based on a 5-point scale with the scores corresponding to the traits and qualities listed beside the score. Any single paper will exhibit a range of traits, so in assigning a score you should evaluate the entire work, taking into consideration its strengths and weaknesses.

Possible Scores	Writing Traits and Qualities
A score of “1” indicates a very weak paper containing many of the traits listed to the right.	<p>Thesis/Focus: No unifying idea/thesis, no originality, no theoretical perspective Evidence: Little supporting evidence, weak or inappropriate sources Analysis/Critical Thought: Little analysis/critical thought, no theoretical perspective Structure: No or little discernible structure Correctness: Numerous errors Style: Awkward sentences and inaccurate word choice</p>
A score of “2” indicates a weak paper containing many of the traits listed to the right.	<p>Thesis/Focus: Unifying idea or thesis exists but focus wanders, inconsistent theoretical perspective and little originality Evidence: Sources, appropriate and inappropriate, employed but not accurately Analysis/Critical Thought: Superficial analysis, lacking critical thought or theoretical insight Structure: Weak or confusing paragraph structure, poor transitions Correctness: Common and regular errors in grammar, syntax, and punctuation Style: Simple repetitive sentences or complex confusing ones, some diction problems</p>
A score of “3” indicates an adequate paper containing many of the traits listed to the right.	<p>Thesis/Focus: Unifying idea or thesis evident but not original or theoretically grounded Evidence: Supporting evidence exists but not fully utilized or appropriate Analysis/Critical Thought: Analysis evident but not developed fully or theoretically consistent Structure: Focused paragraphs with transitions Correctness: Few errors Style: Predictable diction, competent sentences</p>
A score of “4” indicates a solid paper containing many of the traits listed to the right.	<p>Thesis/Focus: Consistent focus and purpose throughout, some originality and theoretical sophistication Evidence: Good development and integration of evidence using appropriate sources Analysis/Critical Thought: Analysis developed with some theoretical grounding Structure: Consistent focus, smooth logical transitions, and unified paragraphs Correctness: Essentially free of errors in mechanics and grammar Style: Some sentence and word variety</p>
A score of “5” indicates a strong paper containing many of the traits listed to the right.	<p>Thesis/Focus: Consistent focus and purpose throughout; originality and creativity evident; strong theoretical perspective Evidence: Fully developed argument employing superior sources Analysis/Critical Thought: Analysis fully developed, employing a strong theoretical frame Structure: Purposeful development and arrangement of the composition, including smooth, logical transitions Correctness: Essentially free of errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage Style: Particularly clear command of language, exhibiting clarity, complexity, and excellent word choice.</p>

Paper Response Sheet

Department of English

This response sheet is intended as a holistic guide. Any single paper exhibits a range of traits and qualities. The six traits listed are described in detail on the **Portfolio Rubric** and the **Portfolio Response Sheet**. Refer to these documents for further information.

A completed response sheet should be attached to your final **308 and 490** papers. These final papers, plus another graded paper from your concentration, should then be placed in your **Senior Portfolio**. The **Senior Portfolio** will be submitted to your instructor at the end of the Senior Seminar. (See the department web site for details.)

I. Thesis/Focus

Needs Improvement	Acceptable	Strong
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II. Evidence

Needs Improvement	Acceptable	Strong
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III. Analysis/Critical Thought

Needs Improvement	Acceptable	Strong
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IV. Structure

Needs Improvement	Acceptable	Strong
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V. Correctness

Needs Improvement	Acceptable	Strong
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VI. Style

Needs Improvement	Acceptable	Strong
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Written Comment: