

# HIS 1007 Book Essay Grading Rubric

Score:

Name:

	Needs Improvement	Basic	Good	Excellent
<b>Argumentation – 25 pts</b>				
Opening & Conclusion	Does not provide background context OR simply repeats main points of the paper. Employs clichés and overstatements of fact.	Provides background context, somewhat repeats main points of the paper, includes limited use of clichés and overstatements of fact.	Holds the reader’s attention, provides background context, does not simply summarize or repeat main points of the paper, avoids clichés and overstatements of fact.	Vivid, holds the reader’s attention, provides background context without being too broad or too narrow, does not simply summarize or repeat main points of the paper, avoids clichés and overstatements of fact.
Thesis	Thesis is unclear and/or not completely accurate. The arguments of the paper are not indicated OR thesis is missing.	Thesis is clear and accurate. Thesis alludes to the arguments to be made in the paper.	Thesis is clear and accurate. Thesis indicates the specific arguments to be made in the paper.	Thesis is clear, accurate, and dynamic. Thesis clearly indicates the specific arguments to be made in the paper.
Persuasive Argument	Persuasive argument is weak and disconnected from the thesis.	Persuasive argument is fairly clear and somewhat connected to the thesis.	Student uses clear and somewhat articulate sentences to develop a clear persuasive argument. Student demonstrates a strong understanding of the book and its lessons. Persuasive argument is connected to the thesis.	Student uses clear, articulate sentences to develop a strong and clear persuasive argument. Student demonstrates a high-level understanding of the book and its lessons. Persuasive argument is clearly connected to the thesis.
Prompt - Focus & Balance	Questions in the prompt are not adequately addressed. Some questions in the prompt are ignored or given little attention. Thesis serves as the focus for only some parts of the paper. Essay is primarily narrative.	Most questions in the prompt are addressed. Thesis serves as the focus for parts of the paper. Some sections are narrative rather than focused.	All questions in the prompt are addressed. Thesis serves as the focus for almost all of the paper. Essay isn’t perfectly balanced, but there is some attention given to each of the questions in the prompt.	All questions in the prompt are thoroughly addressed. Thesis serves as the focus for the whole paper from beginning to end. All information included serves the thesis. More or less equal time and attention is given to each of the questions in the prompt.
Organization	Essay is not well-organized. The main point of most paragraphs is unclear. Paragraphs may have more than one point. The order of paragraphs is jumbled	Essay organization could be improved. The main point of most paragraphs is clearly identified and stated. Each paragraph has only one main point. The order of paragraphs makes logical sense and is largely organized around questions in the prompt.	Essay is largely well-organized. The main point of almost all paragraphs is clearly identified and stated. Each paragraph has only one main point. The order of paragraphs makes logical sense and is organized around the questions in the prompt.	Essay is well-organized. The main point of each paragraph is clearly identified and stated. Each paragraph has only one main point. The order of paragraphs makes logical sense and is organized around the questions in the prompt. The method of argument is easy to follow.
<b>Use of Evidence – 15 pts</b>				
<i>Number of In-Text Citations:</i>				
Support	Thesis is not well-supported and lacks a sufficient number of in-text citations throughout. In some cases, evidence is not relevant. Student does not connect the argument of the book to the class overall.	Thesis is well-supported with quite a few in-text citations throughout. The essay provides adequate evidence for most of the thesis. Evidence includes direct quotations or indirect references from the book. Student somewhat connects the argument of the book to the class overall.	Thesis is well-supported with many in-text citations throughout. The essay provides enough evidence to prove the thesis with some critical reflection. Evidence includes both direct quotations and indirect references from the book. Student connects the argument of the book to the class overall.	Thesis is well-supported with many in-text citations throughout. The essay provides ample evidence to prove the thesis with substantial critical reflection. Evidence includes both direct quotations and indirect references from the book. Student demonstrates substantive engagement with the book and connects the argument of the book to the class overall. [Outstanding students may include evidence from other extra sources as well.]
Citations	In-text citations are included for only some information. Citations are not correctly formatted.	In-text citations are included for all information that is not the student’s original thought. Essay includes a number of citations. Most citations are correctly formatted.	In-text citations are included for all information that is not the student’s original thought. Essay includes many citations. Most citations are correctly formatted with page numbers from the book in parentheses to indicate where the information is found.	In-text citations are included for all information that is not the student’s original thought. Essay includes a substantial number of proper citations. Most citations are correctly formatted with page numbers from the book in parentheses to indicate where the information is found.
<b>Formatting &amp; Grammar – 10 pts</b>				
Editorial Components	A number of grammar and/or spelling errors, writing is too informal, sections of the paper are not necessary, words are misused or irrelevant, may include clichés, pointless abstractions and unnecessary metaphors. Paper may include use of personal pronouns.	Most sentences are grammatically correct, sentence length is appropriate and balanced, writing is professional ( <b>NO contractions or personal pronouns</b> ), some unnecessary words are cut, a few errors can be found.	Almost all sentences are grammatically correct, sentence length is appropriate and balanced, writing is professional ( <b>NO contractions or personal pronouns</b> ), most unnecessary words are cut, vivid and relevant verbs are utilized throughout, few errors can be found.	Each sentence is grammatically correct, sentence length is appropriate and balanced, writing is professional ( <b>NO contractions or personal pronouns</b> ), unnecessary words are cut, vivid and relevant verbs are utilized throughout, no errors can be found.
Format	Paper does not follow correct format. Paper does not meet formatting requirements.	Paper somewhat meets formatting requirements in proper MLA or APA. Paper is missing some elements or combines MLA & APA.	Paper largely meets formatting requirements in proper MLA or APA. Paper is typed, double-spaced, in a reasonable font with reasonable margins, and is paginated.	Paper meets formatting requirements in MLA or APA. Paper is 5-6 pages in length and is typed and double-spaced with 12-pt font in Calibri or Times New Roman. Margins are 1-inch all around. Proper MLA or APA page numbers have been included.