

		Content, Exegesis, and Attention to the Text	Originality and Insight	Sound Reasoning and Force of Argument	Grammar, Spelling, Clarity, and Style
A	9.75	The paper demonstrates you have carefully and painstakingly read the text, and, furthermore, that you have thought seriously about its meaning. Exegesis is complete and accurate. Relevant content is conveyed exhaustively (given the constraints of space). You demonstrate an excellent understanding of the text that focuses	You have immersed yourself in the text and thought beyond the surface meaning to consider its deeper implications, expanding on or appropriating the text in an original way. The paper demonstrates creative and insightful perception of problems. It demonstrates thinking that is not only independent, but also original. I learned from your paper.	The paper is organized in such a way as to maximize the effectiveness of the argument. Transitions between sentences, paragraphs and sections serve to advance the argument. Possible objections and or opposing positions are considered, and refuted or dismissed with sound reasons. The argument has significant force and ability to persuade. There are no logical	There are no spelling or grammatical errors. Transitions between sentences, paragraphs and sections are clear and easy to follow. Language is used correctly and effectively (e.g., good diction). The paper flows well and is pleasurable to read. Documentation—using Chicago-style citation unless directed
A-	9.2	on the issues relevant to your paper without losing sight of the big picture.		fallacies; all connections in the argument are valid. Any personal beliefs or opinions are well-supported with clear and reasonable argumentation.	otherwise—is clear, complete, and accurate.
B+	8.75	The paper demonstrates you have carefully read the text. Exegesis is complete and essentially accurate. The paper conveys all content relevant to	The paper demonstrates insightful perception of problems and issues arising from the text. There is some original, and significant independent, expression of ideas	All major connections in the argument are valid. The argument is effective at persuading the reader. Any personal beliefs or opinions are well-supported with	The paper has only a few minor stylistic errors and it is easy to read and to follow. Most transitions are clear and smooth. Diction is generally
B	8.4	the problem and most points are interpreted accurately. Although a few irrelevant points may have been made, information is conveyed to the reader	and argumentation.	clear and reasonable argumentation.	good. Nevertheless, you need to learn to proofread more carefully. Documentation—using Chicago-style citation unless directed otherwise—is
B-	8.1	clearly and harmoniously.			clear, complete, and accurate.
C+	7.75	The paper demonstrates you have read the text. Exegesis gives a reasonable account of the most important points of the text. Although major relevant content is identified	While there are attempts think beyond the letter of the text, they are superficial, forced, or otherwise suspect. Although you demonstrate an understanding of the issues arising from reading the text, and have	Most moves in the argument avoid obvious mistakes and, as a whole, the argument has some merit. However, there are errors in reasoning or the logical support is not complete. In some cases, there may be	Several mistakes create distractions for the reader; however, there are no gross errors in spelling and grammar. The paper needs polishing. You need to learn to proofread. On its own,
C	7.4	adequately, some significant points have been missed. The paper indicates, by its superficial exposition of information, an understanding of the	attempted to think beyond the text in some way (e.g., by applying theory to practice), the development of these issues is too vague. There is some personal reflection	reliance on unsupported opinion.	unacceptable documentation will immediately drop a paper to the “C” level in this category, and perhaps lower.
C-	7.1	material that lacks sufficient depth.	and rephrasing of the text, but no substantial thinking is evident.		
D	6.7	There is no evidence of careful reading and attention to the text, leading me to suspect you merely skimmed the text or relied on lecture notes. Alternatively, relevant content is missing or misinterpreted, or your exegesis lacks clarity.	There is little evidence of personal reflection and analysis. The paper represents a good recapitulation of class discussion or it smacks of the kind of wisdom available from Wikipedia or Sparknotes. Attempts to link theory to practice are unfocused or ill-conceived. Problems are viewed too generally.	Logical progression and/or connections are frequently missing or invalid. Subjective claims are simply stated without valid support.	The paper is sloppy. There are significant, pervasive errors in spelling and grammar. You appear to have a writing problem.
F	0-5	There is no evidence of attention to the text, leading me to question whether or not you even looked at the material.	There are no signs of personal insight into the text. Even if the exegesis is flawless, there is no evidence that you did any thinking beyond the letter of the text.	The paper is illogical or presents an “argument” with no power to persuade or convince.	The paper is very difficult to read. There are many errors with spelling, grammar, and usage. You appear to have a significant writing problem.