

# SENIOR THESIS PAPER – GRADING RUBRIC

NAME:

GRADE:

**INTRODUCTION: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10**

- States what the paper will be about
- Generates interest in the topic by showing its importance and/or relevance, and/or saying something interesting/startling
- Introduction includes *pathos*

**NARRATION & DIVISION: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10**

- Provides the background information necessary for the audience to understand the argument, including definitions of key terms and historical background
- Is written in a neutral way that both sides of the debate would largely agree upon
- Clearly articulates all sides of the debate
- Clearly states which side you are taking
- Includes the thesis statement
- Provides a preview of the arguments to be developed in the proof

**PROOF: \_\_\_\_\_ / 20**

- States each argument clearly
- Makes clear transitions from one argument to another
- Each argument develops the thesis statement
- Each argument is supported by relevant and compelling reasoning and/or evidence
- Includes sufficient footnotes to provide quality support for the argument

**REFUTATION: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10**

- Clearly states each objection to the thesis, followed by a response defending the thesis
- Clearly differentiates which arguments are your own and which are your opponents'
- Makes clear transitions from one argument to another
- Arguments refuted are the best ones, not irrelevant or straw-man arguments

**CONCLUSION: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10**

- Summarizes argument in an interesting manner
- Reiterates thesis
- Reminds audience of main points
- A call to action has been made, insofar as it is relevant
- The conclusion written in such a way that the paper feels like it has come to an end, rather than merely abruptly stopping
- Conclusion includes *pathos*

**OVERALL ARGUMENT: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10**

- Thesis statement is clear and well-stated
- Paper is coherent and tightly argued
- Arguments are chosen well
- All parts of the paper strongly relate to the thesis statement
- Sources are chosen well and relate well to topic

**WRITING/STYLE: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10**

- Proper spelling and grammar
- Intelligible and proper sentence structure
- Avoids clichés and awkward phrasing
- Writing is understandable and precise, even eloquent at times

**\*LENGTH/SOURCE REQUIREMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10**

- Paper is 15-25 pages
- At least 7 sources in bibliography, including 3 books and/or scholarly journals; no low-quality or questionable sources

**\*FORMATTING: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10**

- Cover page is done according to instructions
- Body of paper is formatted according to instructions
- Footnotes and bibliographical citations are done according to instructions

Scoring Guidelines for Most Categories			
Below Standards <i>0 – 6.5 points</i>	Approaching Standards <i>7.0 – 7.5 points</i>	Meets Standards <i>8.0 – 8.5 points</i>	Above Standards <i>9.0 – 10 points</i>
Scoring Guidelines for Categories Marked with an Asterisk (*)			
Below Standards <i>0 – 6.5 points</i>	Approaching Standards <i>7.0 – 7.5 points</i>	Mostly Meets Standards <i>8.0 – 8.5 points</i>	Fully Meets Standards <i>9.0 – 10 points</i>