# Rubrics for Grading Papers

<table>
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<th>Type of Paper</th>
<th>Rubrics</th>
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| **The “A” Paper** | a. adequately states and defends an argument  
b. answers all counterarguments and counterexamples suggested by lectures, reading assignments, and common sense  
c. mentions specific authors and arguments by name |
| **The “B” Paper** | a. an argument  
b. relevant sub-theses  
c. specific evidence  
d. counterarguments and counterexamples that are identified but not adequately answered  
e. factual evidence that is incorrect, missing, or not specific  
f. linking sub-theses that are either unclear or missing  
g. counter-arguments and counter-examples that are not clearly stated; employs a “straw man” argument |
| **“C” Range Papers** | The low “B” or high “C” paper contains:  
a. an argument on the appropriate topic  
b. clearly supported relevant sub-theses and specific factual evidence  
c. counter-arguments and counterexamples that are not mentioned or answered  
A solid “C” paper states an argument or thesis, but supporting sub-theses and factual evidence are:  
a. missing  
b. incorrect or anachronistic  
c. irrelevant  
d. not sufficiently specific  
e. all or partly obscured by errors in language or usage |
| **“D” Range Papers** | The “C-” or “D+” paper states an argument or thesis, but the argument or thesis does not address the question set.  
The “D” paper correctly lists, narrates, or describes historical data but makes little or no attempt to frame an argument or thesis.  
The “D-” paper simply lists, narrates or describes historical data and includes several factual errors. |
| **“F” Range Papers** | The “F” paper:  
a. contains serious factual errors  
b. is incomprehensible  
c. ignores the question set  
d. is dishonest |

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