

Astr305 Term Paper Grading Guidelines

Here is an outline of the main criteria I will use to grade the term papers, including a general point breakdown. Please recall: Plagiarism is using another person's work without acknowledgment, making it appear to be one's own.

Total points:100

Content: 70pts

- Paper presents interesting and relevant information on the given topic.
- If applicable to topic, writer provides discussion of their own ideas, discussion, or opinions in addition to topic facts.
- Arguments are backed with examples or other supporting information. Statements Are clear and logically connected to each other.
- All ideas/arguments are well-developed, meaning that they are explained and discussed in detail rather than simply stated.
- Minimal quoting. The more quoted material you have, the less content you are writing! Quotes are NOT needed!
- Amount of redundancy. The paper should make several different points. Make sure that you are not repeating one or two ideas over and over just to fill space.

Mechanics: 10pts

- Minimize typos or minor grammatical errors.
- Penalty for significant grammatical errors like sentence fragments, run-on sentences, spelling errors, and punctuation errors.
- Use paragraphs. A paper or essay should not be a list of bullet points.

Formatting: 10pts

- Paper must be typed!
- Use proper font and font size (anything resembling Times New Roman, 12pt)
- Must meet length requirements (equivalent of at least 2 pages single spaced, normal margins of 1 in max, more pages when using different line spacings).

References: 10pts.

- Must include bibliography. This includes listing of journal articles, book chapter/author, other written materials as used. PLAGIARISM will receive a ZERO. For example how to list reference, see paper assignment document.
- Must properly cite online material, if that is used. List the website under your Reference section at the end of the paper.
- If you include in-text citations, they must be clearly marked with quotation marks and the reference should be included. Keep citations to a minimum.
- Must have AT LEAST three references.

NOTE: Not all of these categories are completely independent of each other, for example, length and content. A one-page paper of clearly stated ideas that are not discussed in any sort of detail will not get an 80, even if there are multiple references. This paper would likely receive a maximum score of 60. The length and references requirement should give you an idea of how much detail to go into. If you haven't met the minimum page requirement or used multiple sources, then you do not have a clear, fully developed ideas that cover your topic.