

Short Essay Sample Assignment

Assignment Description

[Note to instructor: This is a sample assignment for a short essay. You should plan to adapt the assignment to fit your context. At a minimum, you will want to change the description and dates. Please refer to the Peerceptiv Knowledge Base for information about how to change the [default assignment settings](#).

If you are using Peerceptiv within your Learning Management System (Canvas, Blackboard, etc.), please first create the assignment in your [LMS](#) to ensure students can access the assignment and that grades will pass back correctly.

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Assignment: Write a 1000 - 1200 word essay on a topic related to this course. You should make an original claim and develop it using at least two academic sources. Please include an introduction with a thesis statement, sufficient body paragraphs to support your claim, and a conclusion. Your essay should follow the formatting and citation guidelines described in the syllabus. The essay will be peer-reviewed for its content, organization, clarity, and formatting.

Dimension 1 Name

Content and Organization

Reviewer Comment Prompt

Use the questions below to provide helpful feedback on the essay. Make sure to identify strengths and explain how specific aspects of the essay's content and organization could be improved.

- Are the ideas presented clearly?
- Does the way the ideas are organized make the essay stronger?
- Are there any ideas that should be developed more fully?

Reviewer Rating Prompt 1

THESIS STATEMENT: The central claim of the essay is stated in the introduction and developed throughout the essay.

4	There is a thesis statement that the essay develops.
3	There is a thesis statement, but it does not state the central claim of the essay.
2	There is a thesis statement, but it may not be fully developed in the essay.
1	There is no thesis statement, or the body of the essay does not develop it.

Weight = 1

Reviewer Rating Prompt 2

DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS: The ideas in the essay are fully developed.

4	All the ideas are well-developed.
3	Most of the ideas are well-developed.
2	Some of the ideas are developed but not as fully as they should be.
1	Ideas are mentioned but not developed.

Weight = 1

Reviewer Rating Prompt 3

RELEVANCY: The ideas in the essay address the writing prompt.

4	All the ideas are relevant to the prompt.
3	Most of the ideas are relevant.
2	Some of the ideas are relevant but others are off-topic.
1	The central argument does not address the writing prompt.

Weight = 1

Reviewer Rating Prompt 4

ORGANIZATION OF IDEAS: Ideas are organized and connected in a way that supports the author's argument.

4	All the ideas are organized and connected to provide clear and coherent support.
3	Most of the ideas are organized and connected to provide clear and coherent support.
2	There is some organization and connections, but these are not always clear.
1	The essay lacks organization or connections between ideas.

Weight = 1

Reviewer Rating Prompt 5

SOURCES USED: Multiple relevant sources are used for support

4	Multiple relevant sources are used for support.
3	Multiple sources are used and most but not all are relevant to the argument.
2	One relevant source is used for support
1	There are no relevant sources used.

Weight = 1

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Dimension 2 Name

Clarity and Formatting

Reviewer Comment Prompt

Use the questions below to provide helpful feedback to the author. Make sure to identify strengths and explain how specific aspects of the essay could be improved.

- What was one aspect of the formatting or grammar that the author did well?
- What was one aspect that needs improvement?
- Identify no more than three errors and provide suggestions to correct them.

Reviewer Rating Prompt 6

FORMATTING: Paper follows the formatting guidelines stated in the syllabus.

4	Formatting guidelines followed exactly; there may be a few minor errors found.
3	Most formatting guidelines followed exactly; no major errors found.
2	Some formatting guidelines followed exactly; a few major errors found.
1	Few style and formatting guidelines followed; more than 3 major errors found.

Weight = 1

Reviewer Rating Prompt 7

CITATIONS - PRESENT: All sources should be cited.

4	All sources are cited.
3	Most sources are cited.
2	Some sources are cited.
1	There are no citations present.

Weight = 1

Reviewer Rating Prompt 8

CITATIONS - FORMATTING: All sources should be cited correctly according to the style manual.

4	The sources are cited correctly according to the manual.
3	The sources are generally cited correctly according to the manual; minor errors may be present.
2	There are multiple errors in the citation formatting.
1	The citations are not cited according to the manual.

Weight = 1

Reviewer Rating Prompt 9

GRAMMAR AND CLARITY: The sentences in the essay are clear and follow standard English grammar rules.

4	The essay is clear and easy to read; only a few minor grammatical errors, if any.
3	The essay is generally clear; there may be a few patterns of grammar errors.
2	There are multiple sentences which are not clear; grammar errors and misspellings occur with frequency.
1	The writing affects the clarity of ideas in multiple paragraphs; frequent major grammar errors cloud meaning.

Weight = 1

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1. Log into Peerceptiv and go to *Assignments* and *New Assignment*. Next, click on *Click Here to Copy a Past Assignment*. The sample assignments are stored there, below any assignments that you may have.
2. Click on the assignment that you want to copy. Enter a name for the assignment and set the Submission Deadline, Reviewing Deadline, and Back Evaluation Deadline. Later, you can edit more settings.
3. Click *Copy Assignment*. Peerceptiv will take you back to your assignment list, and the new assignment will be listed at the bottom of your course assignment list. Use [this Knowledge Base article](#) to help you choose the assignment settings that best fit your goals for your course and the assessment.
4. Go to *Dimensions* and add, edit or delete rubric items so all aspects of the rubric correspond to the assignment and learning objectives for the course.