

## Sample Hybrid Rubric

This hybrid rubric combines a numeric-style analytic rubric with a holistic rubric in order to offer students rich descriptors of the numerically weighted elements emphasized in the assignment prompt (which is included on the last page of this document), thereby providing additional feedback on areas of strength and improvement. Specific phrases in the holistic paragraphs are highlighted to correspond with the analytic elements. The feedback note following the rubric personalizes the response with detail and information specific to the student’s situation.

### Assignment Two Grading Rubric

#### Compelling synthesis of at least two speaker presentations

Excellent <-6-----5-----4-----3-----2-----1-> Failing

#### Presence of a clear, narrowly focused guiding idea about this synthesis

Excellent <-6-----5-----4-----3-----2-----1-> Failing

#### Integration of detailed evidence from the presentations & at least one course text

Excellent <-6-----5-----4-----3-----2-----1-> Failing

#### Demonstration of careful analysis of this evidence

Excellent <-6-----5-----4-----3-----2-----1-> Failing

#### Use of structure that best presents guiding idea

Excellent <-6-----5-----0-----4-----3-----2-----1-> Failing

#### Adherence to format guidelines

Excellent <-6-----0-----5-----4-----3-----2-----1-> Failing

#### Clarity of expression and consistency of tone

Excellent <-6-----5-----4-----3-----2-----1-> Failing

- 6 An **excellent** response addresses the question fully and explores the issues thoughtfully to present a compelling synthesis. It shows substantial depth, fullness, and complexity of thought. The response demonstrates clear, focused, unified, and coherent organization, appropriate to the guiding idea. Integration of evidence is seamless, and analysis is fully developed and detailed. The essay demonstrates superior control of diction, syntactic variety, transition, and formatting but may have minor flaws.
- 5 A **strong** response clearly addresses the question and explores the issues, presenting a successful synthesis. It shows some depth and complexity of thought and is effectively organized, as appropriate to the guiding idea. The strong essay integrates evidence successfully, and the analysis is well developed, with supporting detail. It demonstrates control of diction, syntactic variety, transition, and formatting, though it may have occasional flaws.
- 4 A **competent** response adequately addresses the question and explores the issues, but the strands of the argument may not fully synthesize. It shows clarity of thought but may lack complexity. A competent essay is appropriately organized and the analysis is adequately developed, with some detail. Evidence may not always be smoothly integrated. This response demonstrates competent writing, though it may have more frequent flaws.
- 3 A **weak** response may distort or neglect parts of the question, leading to an ineffective synthesis. It may be simplistic or stereotyped in thought. It may demonstrate problems in organization. It may use generalizations without supporting detail or detail without generalizations; details may be undeveloped; analysis may be simplistic or hasty; evidence may be missing or poorly integrated. The weak response shows patterns of error in language, syntax, and/or mechanics.
- 2 An **inadequate** response demonstrates serious problems in one or more of the areas specified for the weak (3) response. The inadequate response shows numerous errors in language, syntax, and/or mechanics that interfere with meaning.
- 1 A **failing** response is unsuccessful in its attempt to discuss the topic, may be deliberately off-topic, or is plagiarized. An essay in this category provides little evidence of the ability to develop an organized response. The failing response shows pervasive patterns of error in language, syntax, and/or mechanics that result in incoherence.

[Student], you've done a nice job here of bringing these two presentations together, and offering multiple examples of how you see online spaces and new media technologies moving forward to offer greater access and inclusivity. I found your argument convincing, but as I indicated in my comments, I think your argument would have benefitted from some more extensive analysis of these example, some citations to support your claims about progress, and also a move in the essay toward a more nuanced position that might be quite optimistic, but that also is aware of counterarguments and complexities. In regard to your thesis, this was something [our GSI] noted in your last essay, and it's still an area to work on for your next project. This might be something to focus some discussion on in your project conference.

The essay assignment also called for the incorporation of at least one class text, and I don't see that element here, which does have some effect on your grade.

Nice start here.

[Instructor]

Grade: 170/200

## Assignment Two: Mid-Term Synthesis

### Objective

The purpose of this assignment is to connect and synthesize different perspectives about new media from the semester's various presentations and readings, and construct an argument related to our course themes.

### Structure and Argument

As in your first essay, this essay needs to be governed by a clear, narrowly focused guiding idea and it needs to demonstrate this idea through detailed evidence and careful analysis.

In this essay, rather than analyze personal experience, you must discuss **at least two** presentations that we have seen so far (**and at least one** of the readings or videos connected to the presentations). What patterns do you see? Or how do they relate to each other and to the themes of the class? Each essay should include a short summary of the presentation, but the main focus should be on your critical analysis linking ideas and themes. By connecting different approaches to, or perspectives on, new media, you will build a thesis or main argument.

You are free to use ideas that you originally raised in your blog posts, so it might be beneficial to go back and re-read your posts. A few other suggestions for synthesizing material:

- Refer back to the definitions of new media that we discussed early in the semester (Shirky, Brown, Morozov, etc.). How do the presentations clarify (or even challenge) those definitions?
- Refer back to the categories of new media that we discussed a few weeks ago in discussion section ([the reading](#) and a [summary ppt](#) can be found on CTools/Resources/Assignment Prompts and Supporting Materials). There might be ways of connecting presentations that seem, on the surface, unlikely partners.
- Consider the major themes that keep cropping up in class, as well as the main questions we have been asking our speakers to address ("How has new media changed the way you think, write, or argue in your particular discipline or field?").
- Go back and view/listen to the lectures if you think this would be helpful. You'll find them linked in CTools/Resources/Folder-for-that-day (e.g., Jan 22 materials).

### Format

5-7 pages. Please give your essay a descriptive title and page numbers. Double-space it, and use 1" margins and a standard font. Please use APA, MLA, or CMS format to cite your sources, including the class lectures and readings (any of these formats is fine — just use it consistently and correctly).