

MSTD Grading RUBRICS

Standards for MSTD Papers

A successful paper is characterized by:

- Demonstration that the student understands the arguments or recommendations presented by scholars and experts in the field.
- When an original argument is called for] clear development of a compelling, convincing, and coherent thesis distinct from that being advanced by the published authors, and presentation of evidence in a creative manner rather than simply replicating the ideas of the authors cited.
- Organization according to instructor's directions, with topic sentences, an introduction that provides a blueprint for the body of the paper, and a conclusion.
- Clear writing, employing standard grammar and sentence structure.
- Proper citations and page numbers
- Double-spaced, at a length within the assigned page range (neither longer nor shorter)

An unacceptable paper is characterized by:

- A minimal lack of effort or comprehension of the assignment.
- When an original argument is called for] no identifiable thesis or a thesis that makes little sense
- Bland restatement of obvious points;
- Lack of is clarity owing to major problems with grammar, structure, and analysis;

Some paper-writing tips:

- Avoid wide-reaching historical generalizations
- Use quotes intelligently without allowing citations to overpower your own words
- Make good use of details and examples from source materials
- Provide transitions between paragraphs and arguments that offer insight into the links between ideas
- Employ diverse sentence structure

Standards for MSTD Presentations

A successful presentation will be characterized by:

- Organization, Clarity and Quality of material
- Meeting stated time limit for delivery
- Being accompanied by clear and understandable visuals/ agendas
- Including all members in the group presentation
- Having all group members present
- Including clear connections to the themes and learning outcomes of the course
- Clear delivery and engagement of audience
- Allowing time for questions

Standards for MSTD Participation

Active in-class participation will be characterized by:

- Completing all required readings for each class
- Voluntarily contributing to class discussions
- Being an engaged listener
- Actively participating in classroom exercises
- Arriving on-time to class
- Attending all class sessions unless prevented by illness or uncontrollable event