

Physics 310 – Essay Scoring Rubric

Your essays in this course will be evaluated using the following scoring rubric. Please note that not all dimensions will always be applicable to every essay. Some might be marked not applicable, but this will rarely occur.

	0 points	1 point	2 points	3 points	Score
Title & Abstract Page (addend)	Title only; no abstract provided or inappropriate.	Abstract rambling, imprecise <i>and</i> not comprehensive; on separate page with title.	Abstract rambling, imprecise <i>or</i> not comprehensive; on separate page with title.	Abstract concise, comprehensive, clearly communicates nature of essay's contents; on separate page with title.	
Organization (addend)	Thesis statement, introduction, body and close essentially indistinguishable; mostly specific information with few generalities.	Has some of the essential components but is disorganized; no real movement from generalities to specifics.	Has all the essential components, but is disorganized; moves generally from generalities to the specifics.	Thesis statement, introduction, body, and close clearly discernable; essay moves regularly from generalities to specifics.	
Writing Style (addend)	Too familiar (e.g., repeated use of “you”); rambling commentary; poorly formulated paragraphs.	Mixed style; mostly too familiar; somewhat professional, and/or poorly formulated paragraphs.	Mixed style; mostly professional; somewhat too familiar; well formulated paragraphs.	Suitable for journal publication with a few minor revisions; well formulated paragraphs.	
Professionalism (addend)	Unprofessional; no evidence of significant use of references; provides mostly general commentary and personal opinions; strong evidence of “surface learning”	Less professional; some material of substance, but lots of personal commentary; could be enhanced considerably; shows more “surface learning” than “deep learning”	More professional; material mostly of substance, but includes some opinions; could be enhanced somewhat; shows more “deep learning” than “surface learning”	Very professional; clear evidence of use of several references; material of substantive value; research based; no needed improvement; strong evidence of “deep learning”	
Argumentation (addend)	Arguments are not cogent, concise, and relevant; few arguments are given and they are poorly reasoned, and insufficient to the task.	Arguments are not always cogent, concise, and relevant; many arguments are given but they are poorly reasoned; reader unconvinced.	Most arguments are cogent, concise, and relevant; a small number of arguments provided and all are well reasoned; reader uncertain.	All arguments are cogent, concise, and relevant; many arguments provided and all are well reasoned; arguments “win the day.”	
Accuracy (addend)	Multiple and gross errors in fact; grossly inaccurate conclusions.	Multiple minor errors in fact; poorly drawn conclusions.	Minor errors in fact; reasonably well drawn conclusions.	No discernable errors in fact; well-grounded conclusions.	
Citations (addend)	Clearly uses others’ ideas without making in-line citations giving credit due.	Often uses other’s ideas without making in-line citations.	Once or twice uses other’s ideas without making in-line citations.	Makes appropriate use of in-line citations to credit due to others.	
Completeness (addend)	Addresses full range of subject matter poorly.	Addresses full range of subject matter irregularly.	Addresses full range of subject matter adequately.	Addresses full range of subject matter very thoroughly.	

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	0 points	1 point	2 points	3 points	Score
Spelling, Grammar, and Punctuation (addend)	Poorly written with numerous spelling, grammatical, and/or punctuation errors; a number of major and minor grammatical errors; essentially unreadable.	Tolerably well written; a fair number of minor spelling, grammatical, and/or punctuation errors; a few major error; confusing to reader; no evidence of regular revision & proofing.	Reasonably well written; a few minor spelling, grammatical or punctuation errors; easy and interesting reading; evidence of regular revision and proof reading.	Well written; no grammatical errors; insignificant number of punctuation errors; no spelling errors; easy and interesting reading; clear evidence of regular revision & proofing.	
Format & Appearance (addend)	Gross violation of essay format guidelines dealing with font, font size, line spacing, and border areas; poor print quality.	Fails to meet two or three guidelines of appropriate font, font size, line spacing, and border areas; fair print quality.	Fails to meet one the guidelines for appropriate font, font size, line spacing, and border areas; good print quality.	Uses appropriate font, font size, line spacing, and border areas; good layout; good print quality.	
References (addend)	None provided; essay clearly lacks evidence of appropriate review of resources.	None provided; essay shows some evidence of review of two or more resources.	Two or three provided but lacks critical sources; essay shows evidence of review of several resources.	Four or more provided; essay shows evidence of review of several major critical resources.	
Sum of Addends:					33
Script Length (correctly formatted minus title, abstract, references and lesson objectives; submitted on time; post deadline no value.) (multiplier on sum of addends)	Required 6-8 page paper: 1 complete pages (0.17X); 2 complete pages (0.33X)	3 complete pages (0.50X) 4 complete pages (0.66X)	5 complete pages (0.83X) 6 complete pages (1.00X)	7 complete pages (1.05X) 8 complete pages (1.10X)	
	Required 4-6 page paper: 1 complete pages (0.25X) 2 complete pages (0.50X)	3 complete pages (0.75X) 4 complete pages (1.0X)	5 complete pages (1.05X) 6 complete pages (1.10X)		
Integrity (multiplier on above)	Essay clearly plagiarized; no citation provided at all. (0X)	Essentially plagiarized; large amounts of direct quoting even though reference(s) provided. (0.5X)	Essay not far from plagiarized; mere rearrangement of words; no evidence of own creativity. (0.7X)	Clearly work of student; makes appropriate use of references and citations. (1X)	
General Comments:					Raw Score: 33
					Normalized Score: _____