

POSITION PAPER ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

HIST 246: American Civil War Era

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
<p>Argument (40%)</p> <p>Does the paper take a defensible, well-defined position that responds directly to the assignment prompt? Is the position developed and well supported with good historical reasoning (i.e., the conclusions drawn by the author derive from the chain of reasons and premises developed in the body of the paper)? Does the paper acknowledge and address potentially persuasive counter-arguments?</p>	4.0 3.7	3.3 3.0 2.7	2.3 2.0 1.7	1.3 1.0 0.7
<p>Use of Evidence (40%)</p> <p>Are the paper's overall position and supporting premises well supported with relevant evidence and examples from course readings, class discussions, or lectures? Is <i>specific</i> evidence offered? Does the author entirely ignore a major fact or piece of evidence relevant to the paper's position, rather than showing why this evidence does not fatally undermine the author's argument?</p>	4.0 3.7	3.3 3.0 2.7	2.3 2.0 1.7	1.3 1.0 0.7
<p>Clarity (10%)</p> <p>Does the paper "stick to the point"? Is the paper well organized, so that the main claims and supporting evidences are clear?</p>	4.0 3.7	3.3 3.0 2.7	2.3 2.0 1.7	1.3 1.0 0.7
<p>Style (5%)</p> <p>Is the paper written well? Are the sentences and paragraphs structured in a way that makes the paper readable? Is word choice varied and appropriate? Are there signs that revisions have been made to the paper (for instance, minimal repetition and few run-on sentences)? Are lengthy quotations used only sparingly, or do they dominate the text?</p>	4.0 3.7	3.3 3.0 2.7	2.3 2.0 1.7	1.3 1.0 0.7
<p>Grammar and Formatting (5%)</p> <p>Does the paper have significant and repeated errors of punctuation, spelling, or grammar? Are quotations drawn from course readings "sourced" so that they can be located by the reader?</p>	4.0 3.7	3.3 3.0 2.7	2.3 2.0 1.7	1.3 1.0 0.7

Grade point Key: 3.8-4.0 (A), 3.5-3.7 (A-), 3.3-3.4 (B+), 2.8-3.2 (B), 2.5-2.7 (B-), 2.1-2.4 (C+), 1.8-2.0 (C), 1.5-1.7 (C-), 1.1-1.3 (D+), 1.0 (D), < 1.0 (D-), 0 (F). If a paper demonstrates exceptional excellence across the board, I reserve the right to distinguish the paper with an A+ (4.3).