

**American Studies 110, Fall 2007/Evaluation of first assignment**

The following chart summarizes the criteria I use to evaluate your essay. The chart moves generally from the most important to the least important issues in determining a grade, but problems in organization, prose style, and sentence-level correctness can make it hard for me to evaluate the more important issues of content. **If you ever don't understand something about the feedback I give you, or want to discuss anything further about your paper, PLEASE talk to me.**

	Yes	Somewhat	No
Does your essay have a well-defined focus?			
If you chose one of the topics I gave, did you respond to the question asked?			
Does your essay demonstrate comprehension of the text(s) you discuss?			
Is your analysis clear, original, and persuasive?			
Do you summarize your analysis clearly and effectively in a thesis statement at the end of your intro?			
Do you use evidence effectively (choose strong examples; know when to quote directly and when to paraphrase)?			
Do you avoid excessive background information or summary of texts?			
Is your essay organized effectively?			
Is your prose style (syntax, word choice, etc.) strong?			
Do you have an original, engaging title?			
Do you integrate direct quotations into your own prose correctly, using signal phrases when necessary?			
Do you punctuate quotations correctly?			
Did you follow my directions for the following?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MLA style for in-text citation and bibliography</li> <li>• MLA style for page #'s and margins</li> <li>• Font size and typeface</li> <li>• Reflective writing</li> <li>• Length (5 pages)</li> <li>• Page numbering and stapling</li> <li>• Proofreading</li> </ul>			
Grade:			
Based on this essay,			
_____ I require you to use the Writing Center for the final essay.			
_____ I recommend you use the Writing Center for the final essay			

Make your appointments NOW for the end of the semester. The Center gets booked early.