

Department of History  
 John Carroll University  
 Rubric for Assessment of Formal Writing Assignments  
 Fall 2017

	<b>Exceeds Expectations (5)</b>	<b>Meets Expectations (3)</b>	<b>Fails to meet expectations (1)</b>
<b>Thesis</b>	Student articulates a clear and persuasive thesis that is situated in the appropriate historical literature.	Student articulates an identifiable and logical thesis.	Student fails to articulate an identifiable and logical thesis.
<b>Organization</b>	Engaging, scholarly introduction and conclusion; coherent and consistent structure; sophisticated transitions; ideas and themes fully developed in separate paragraphs.	Functional introduction and conclusion; identifiable structure with discernible transitions (including topic sentences which relate back to thesis); few logical problems.	Poor or no introduction and/or conclusion; absence of connections between thesis and paragraphs; few or excessively long or short paragraphs.
<b>Evidence Analysis</b>	Substantial evidence; sources integrated to clearly and effectively defend the thesis; skilled analysis of sources in light of their historical context.	Sufficient evidence; sources credibly used to support a thesis; functional use of primary and secondary sources; analyzes sources in light of their historical context.	Use of only one or no sources; if present, sources not analyzed to support thesis; overlooks historical context of documents.
<b>Style</b>	Skillful attention to sentence structure and word choice; no grammatical errors that inhibit clarity; only minor errors in usage, punctuation, or spelling.	Proper sentence structure; few grammatical, mechanical and usage errors, slang, or clichés.	Incoherent sentence structure and word choice; frequent grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors.
<b>Documentation</b>	Consistent attention to proper format for citation and proper use of sources; highest level of academic integrity.	Sufficient attention to guidelines for citation and proper use of sources; no plagiarism.	Lack of attention to guidelines for citation of sources; evidence of plagiarism.