

## Scoring Rubric for Written Responses

**5** Thesis/Question stated in response; responds directly to the question  
Uses documents and materials completely and accurately; weighs the importance and validity of knowledge acquired and already obtained  
Cites considerable relevant information from outside learning  
Displays a thorough understanding of the topic and related issues  
Well structured, well written; proper spelling, grammar, mechanics

**4** Partial Thesis/Question stated in response; answers the question  
Uses documents and materials correctly; recognizes that all materials (in-class and out-of-class learning) should be weighed and considered.  
Cites some relevant information from outside learning  
Shows an understanding of the topic and related issues  
Clearly written and coherent; some minor errors in writing

**3** Addresses the question but has weak structure and focus  
Uses most documents and material correctly-simplistic analysis; does not always weigh the importance and validity of the materials.  
Includes little relevant information from outside learning  
Shows basic, though simplistic, understanding of the topic and related issues  
Weaker organization; some errors in writing detract from response's meaning

**2** Poor focus; fails to answer the question adequately  
Some documents or materials used correctly; some only paraphrased or misunderstood;  
Fails to recognize any difference (compare/contrast) in the various material  
Includes little information from outside learning-what is included is irrelevant.  
Shows little understanding of the topic and related issues  
Poorly organized; many errors in Standard English

**1** Fails to address the question; confusing and unfocused  
Fails to use documents or materials correctly; simply paraphrased or misunderstood  
Includes no relevant information from beyond the documents or materials  
Show almost no understanding of the topic or related issues  
Disorganized; littered with errors in Standard English

**0** No attempt to address the question  
Ignores or misuses the question  
Includes no information from beyond the reading  
Shows no understanding of the topic or related issues  
Lacks any organization; little attempt made