

**Learning Goal:** Students will show proficiency in written communication.

**Method of Assessment:** evaluation of student writing projects using the following rubric (slightly modified from the PSU writing rubric).

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Ratings</u>			
	<u>Exceeds Expectations</u>	<u>Meets Expectations</u>	<u>Falls Below Expectations</u>	<u>No Credit</u>
<p><b>Focus</b> The main purpose is clear. All parts of the paper are clearly related to the main purpose. Thesis, topic sentences, and forecasting statements are used effectively.</p>				
<p><b>Development</b> Evidence and reasoning are entirely appropriate to the audience and purpose and are richly developed.</p>				
<p><b>Organization</b> The sequence of ideas supports development of the main idea; transitions and other features are used to reinforce organization</p>				
<p><b>Style</b> Sentences are clear, effective, and coherent; vocabulary is broad. Tone, word choice, and syntax are appropriate for the paper’s audience and purpose.</p>				
<p><b>Language Use and Mechanics</b> The paper is nearly free of errors of spelling, grammar, punctuation, word choice, and formatting.</p>				