

BEFORE YOUR ONE-ON-ONE CONFERENCE

Self-Assessment Rubric

Name _____

Date _____

You've finished your final paper. Now reflect on it before we meet.

Instead of written feedback, we'll meet one-on-one. I'll give you verbal feedback in that conference, and this self-assessment is what we'll talk from — so it's worth doing carefully.

For each category, choose the score range you think your paper falls into and explain why using specific examples from your paper. Be honest and specific — this is genuine reflection, not grade justification. Complete the final reflection last, after sections 1–4.

1 Thesis & Structure

15 PTS

14– 15	Thesis is sophisticated, specific, and arguable. Excellently organized, with strong topic sentences that clearly connect to the thesis. Smooth, logical flow from introduction through body paragraphs to conclusion.
12– 13	Thesis is clear and specific. Well organized with clear topic sentences. Good logical flow and effective transitions between ideas.
10– 11	Thesis is present but somewhat general or predictable. Organization is adequate, but topic sentences may be weak or inconsistently connected to the thesis. Some flow issues.
7–9	Thesis is unclear, too broad, or merely descriptive. Weak organization with unclear or missing topic sentences. Poor logical flow between paragraphs.
< 7	No clear thesis, or the essay is severely disorganized.

My self-assessed score: / 15

Why — with specific examples from my paper

One strength

One area for growth

2 Analysis Over Summary

25 PTS

23– 25	Consistently prioritizes interpretation and argument over description. Explains the significance of all evidence. Engages meaningfully with complexity, nuance, and multiple perspectives. Makes sophisticated connections between evidence and larger historical or ethical questions.
20– 22	Generally prioritizes analysis over summary. Explains the significance of most evidence. Engages with some complexity and different perspectives. Makes clear connections to larger questions.
16– 19	A mix of analysis and summary, with summary sometimes dominating. Explains the significance of some evidence but not consistently. Limited engagement with complexity or alternative perspectives.
12– 15	Primarily summary with minimal analysis. Presents evidence without explaining its significance. Little engagement with complexity or nuance.
< 12	Almost entirely summary or description, with no meaningful analysis.

My self-assessed score: / 25

Why — with specific examples from my paper

One strength

One area for growth

3 Writing & Clarity

15 PTS

14– 15	Writing is clear, precise, and essentially error-free. Sophisticated vocabulary and sentence variety. Smooth, effective transitions throughout. The introduction sets up the argument; the conclusion synthesizes without repeating.
12– 13	Writing is clear with only minor grammatical errors. Good vocabulary and sentence structure. Effective transitions. Solid introduction and conclusion.

10–11	Writing is generally clear but has noticeable errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation. Some awkward phrasing or repetitive sentence structure. Adequate introduction and conclusion.
7–9	Clarity is compromised by frequent errors. Weak vocabulary or confusing sentence structure. The introduction or conclusion is underdeveloped.
< 7	Significant errors throughout that impede understanding.

My self-assessed score: / 15

Why — with specific examples from my paper

One strength	One area for growth

4 Overall Effectiveness

5 PTS

5	Exceptional engagement with the material. Historical context is accurate and sophisticated. Reads as a cohesive, compelling argument. Shows intellectual risk-taking and impressive depth of thought.
4	Strong engagement. Historical context is accurate and well explained. Reads as a cohesive argument with good depth.
3	Adequate engagement. Historical context is mostly accurate. Reasonably cohesive with some depth.
2	Limited engagement. Historical context has some inaccuracies. Lacks cohesion or depth.
1	Minimal engagement, or significant historical inaccuracies.

My self-assessed score: / 5

Why — with specific examples from my paper

One strength	One area for growth

COMPLETE LAST

Final Reflection

Total self-assessed score: / 60

Thesis & Structure 15 · Analysis 25 · Writing 15 · Overall 5

What did you learn through the process of writing this paper?

What are one or two specific questions you want to discuss in your conference?

Adapted from a rubric created by educator David Cutler, shared by Edutopia.