

Auburn University Philosophy Department Paper Rubric (G. Rohrbaugh)

	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Inadequate
Material Understanding				
Low Level Exegesis	Clear, complete, and correct account of relevant aspects of examined positions, writings.	No serious errors, but presentation makes position hard to understand.	Interpretive misunderstandings on display, but main points are correct.	Betrays fundamental misunderstandings of examined positions.
High Level Issues	Demonstrates control over the philosophical dynamic. Puzzle, sympathetic understandings of sides, and their underlying motivations are clear.	Main issue and sides are staked out clearly, but not contextualized or are presented one-sidedly.	Main topic is understood, but little or no control over the relations of the parts to one another.	Main question or topic of paper is misunderstood.
Argument				
Thesis	Thesis is clearly stated.	Thesis present, but not clearly stated.	Unstated thesis only partly in focus of author.	Thesis is absent, inappropriate or incomprehensible.
Reasoning	Clear, valid reasoning on offer.	Explicit argument is invalid, has gaps in reasoning.	Only sketch of argumentative support present.	No acceptable attempt is made to support the thesis.
Premises	Explicitly, individually stated. Further defense offered where appropriate.	Explicit premises on offer, but little or no further discussion or support.	Premises not explicitly identified.	
Objections	Good objections are stated and reasonable responses supplied.	Obvious objections are shouldered, but responses are limited.	Only superficial consideration of objections; no responses on offer.	No opposing positions considered.
Writing				
Style	Consistently clear, concise, concrete, readable idiom.	Inconsistently clear, concise, concrete and readable.	Rarely clear, concise, concrete and readable. Style hinders comprehension.	Style frequently makes the author incomprehensible.
Structure	Considered organization is appropriate to and aids reader's comprehension.	While paper is adequately organized, improvements would aid comprehension.	Paper is not well-organized. Structural problems hinder comprehension.	Paper appears totally unplanned, disorganized.
Spelling and Grammar	Few or no deviations from SWE grammar and spelling.	Occasional deviations from SWE grammar and spelling.	Frequent deviations from SWE grammar and spelling.	Continual deviations from SWE grammar and spelling.
Insight and Creativity				
	Interesting, original, independent thought.	Evidence of some independent thought about and engagement with the issues.	Workmanlike.	Wholly derivative of readings and class lecture.