

Political Science

Written Communication

Criteria	Capstone 4 points	Milestones		Benchmark 1 point
		3 points	2 points	
Context of and Purpose of Writing	The description of the topic and its political significance is detailed and comprehensive.	There is a basic description of the topic and its political significance and some detail is provided.	The topic and its political significance are briefly mentioned and described, but almost no detail is provided.	The description of the topic does not describe the topic and does not address its significance.
Content Development	Paper includes a clear, detailed and easily identifiable thesis statement/argument.	Paper includes a clear, easily identifiable thesis/argument, but does not provide detail.	Paper includes what may be a thesis/argument, although it is not clearly stated and few details are provided.	Paper does not contain a stated or implied thesis statement or argument.
Genre and Disciplinary Conventions	Paper demonstrates detailed attention to and successful execution of a wide range of conventions particular to a specific discipline and/or writing tasks(s) including organization, content, presentation, formatting, and stylistic choices.	Paper demonstrates consistent use of important conventions particular to a specific discipline and/or writing task(s), including organization, content, presentation, and stylistic choices.	Paper follows expectations appropriate to a specific discipline and/or writing task(s) for basic organization, content, and presentation.	Paper attempts to use a consistent system for basic organization and presentation.
Sources and Evidence	Paper demonstrates skillful use of high quality, credible, relevant sources to develop ideas that are appropriate for the discipline and genre of the writing.	Paper demonstrates consistent use of credible, relevant sources to support ideas that are situated within the discipline and genre of the writing.	Paper demonstrates an attempt to use credible and/or relevant sources to support ideas that are appropriate for the discipline and genre of the writing.	Paper demonstrates an attempt to use sources to support ideas in the writing.
Control of Syntax and Mechanics	Paper demonstrates excellent and precise understanding of standard English usage and uses the assigned citation style.	Paper usually demonstrates excellent and precise understanding of standard English usage and correct citation style.	Paper sometimes demonstrates accurate understanding of standard English usage and correct citation style.	Paper does not demonstrate accurate understanding of standard English usage or use correct citation style.