

RUBRIC for Master's Essay (to be done by readers only)

Instructions: Please place a check mark in the appropriate box

	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Adequate (2)	Poor (1)
Essay topic	A significant contribution to the field	Not necessarily an idea that will make a significant contribution to the field, but a valuable synthesis or framing of the argument	Does not make a significant contribution to the field	Vague and poorly defined
Thesis statement and development	Defined; demonstrates complex and informed understanding of the primary text(s) drawn from particular context or concepts.	Defined and complex, but not necessarily original or ideally framed.	Defined, but not complex	Vague and poorly defined
Research	Extensive review of previous work on the topic, drawing from a variety of relevant sources	Thorough review of previous work on the topic	Fairly thorough review of previous work on the topic	Incomplete review of previous work on the topic
Critical insight and depth	Critically sophisticated	Some level of critical sophistication	Mundane	Lacking critical insight and depth
Organization of the paper	Sections and sequences are clearly indicated by strong topic sentences, transitions, and clear guidance of the reader at all points	Sections and sequences are clearly indicated, with perhaps a few minor lapses	Sections and sequences are apparent	Organization not apparent
Use of primary texts as evidence to support thesis	Ideal, including discussion of the nuances of interpretation of the evidence	Frequent, including discussion of the nuances of interpretation of the evidence	Frequent, although some parts of the argument could be more fully supported and/or nuanced	Missing needed pieces of evidence and discussion connecting evidence to thesis
Use of secondary texts	Secondary to the author's argument; incorporates references clearly, meaningfully, and in context within the paper	Secondary to the author's argument; incorporates references clearly, but not as skillfully as in an excellent paper	Sometimes primary, but generally secondary to the author's argument; incorporates references reasonably clearly	Frequently taking over the author's argument; and/or references incorporated inappropriately
Development of bibliography	Evidence of complete search of indexes, catalogs, and bibliography developed from reading	Evidence of fairly thorough search of indexes, catalogs, and bibliography developed from reading	Evidence of multiple relevant sources and capable database searching techniques	Missing a significant number of primary and secondary sources relevant to topic
Use of appropriate methodology	Consciously-chosen critical lens whose appropriateness and utility for the topic is explained	Consciously chosen critical lens whose appropriateness and utility for the topic is evident	Appropriate critical lens, but not fully reflected upon	Ineffective critical lens
Writing style, grammar, syntax	Fluent and polished; language is chosen with a sense of clarity and purpose; not jargon-ridden	Generally clear and lucid	Generally clear and lucid, with a few lapses	Many lapses that may render meaning unclear

Student: _____

**Oral Presentation (based on Master's Essay Conversation)
RUBRIC**

	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Adequate (2)	Poor (1)
Introduction of topic	Detailed history of project and self-reflection	History of project and self-reflection	Succinct summary	Vague; incoherent
Writing process	Fully reflective on personal process	Reflective on personal process	Some gaps in self-understanding of process	Weak reflection on process
Handling of questions	Explores nuances of questions while also providing detailed answers	Provides detailed answers	Satisfactory answers	Vague responses
Contextualizing of work	Understands and reflects on possible contribution of project to the discipline; defines directions for future work	Understands and reflects on possible contribution of project to the discipline	Understands work in the narrower context of the specific topic	Does not understand the relevance of the work within the field
Depth of knowledge	Shows breadth and complexity of knowledge in chosen field	Shows breadth of knowledge in the chosen field	Shows adequate knowledge on the subject chosen	Shows shallow or cursory knowledge