

MDK200 Writing Rubric
Northwestern Michigan College ~ Great Lakes Maritime Academy

Quality Criteria	Not Submitted (0)	No/Limited Proficiency (5)	Some Proficiency (10)	Proficiency (15)	High Proficiency (20)
1. Thesis/Focus: (a) Originality	Not submitted.	Thesis is missing	Thesis may be obvious or unimaginative	Thesis is somewhat original	Develops fresh insight that challenges the reader's thinking;
2. Thesis/Focus: (b) Clarity	Not submitted.	Reader cannot determine thesis & purpose OR thesis has no relation to the writing task	Thesis and purpose are somewhat vague OR only loosely related to the writing task	Thesis and purpose are fairly clear and match the writing task	Thesis and purpose are clear to the reader; closely match the writing task
3. Organization	Not submitted.	Unclear organization OR organizational plan is inappropriate to thesis. No transitions	Some signs of logical organization. May have abrupt or illogical shifts & ineffective flow of ideas	Organization supports thesis and purpose. Transitions are mostly appropriate. Sequence of ideas could be improved	Fully & imaginatively supports thesis & purpose. Sequence of ideas is effective. Transitions are effective
4. Support/Reasoning (a) Ideas (b) Details	Not submitted.	Offers simplistic, undeveloped, or cryptic support for the ideas. Inappropriate or off-topic generalizations, faulty assumptions, errors of fact	Offers somewhat obvious support that may be too broad. Details are too general, not interpreted, irrelevant to thesis, or inappropriately repetitive	Offers solid but less original reasoning. Assumptions are not always recognized or made explicit. Contains some appropriate details or examples	Substantial, logical, & concrete development of ideas. Assumptions are made explicit. Details are germane, original, and convincingly interpreted
5. Use of sources/ Documentation	Not submitted.	Neglects important sources. Overuse of quotations or paraphrase to substitute writer's own ideas. (Possibly uses source material without acknowledgement.)	Uses relevant sources but lacks in variety of sources and/or the skillful combination of sources. Quotations & paraphrases may be too long and/or inconsistently referenced	Uses sources to support, extend, and inform, but not substitute writer's own development of idea. Doesn't overuse quotes, but may not always conform to required style manual	Uses sources to support, extend, and inform, but not substitute writer's own development of idea. Combines material from a variety of sources, incl. pers. observation, scientific data, authoritative testimony. Doesn't overuse quotes.

(adapted from Northeastern Illinois University and Barbara Walvoord, Winthrop Univ., Virginia Community College System, Univ. of Washington)