MSA WRITTEN COMMUNICATION RUBRIC

Criteria	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Content	Paper does not identify thesis or purpose. Analysis vague or missing. Reader is confused or misinformed.	Some analysis of a thesis or purpose. Reader gains few insights.	Basic analysis of a thesis or purpose. Reader gains some insights.	Thoughtful and insightful analysis of a clearly presented thesis or purpose. Reader gains insight.
Determine Needed Information	No or almost no recognition that additional information needed for analysis	Recognized a few types of information needed for analysis; may have included unnecessary information	Recognized most of the necessary information needed for analysis; may have included tangential information	Recognized exactly what information was needed for analysis
Generate Needed Information	Lacked an understanding of the variety of available resources.	Examined a minimal number of resources or relied too much on one type.	Examined most major resources available; might have missed a few.	Examined a wide variety of resources that met research objective.
Organization	Little semblance of logical organization. Reader cannot identify reasoning.	Writing is not logical and ideas sometimes fail to make sense. Reader needs to work to figure out meaning.	Ideas are, for the most part, arranged logically and linked. Reader can follow most of the reasoning.	Ideas are arranged logically, flow smoothly, and are clearly linked. Reader can easily follow reasoning.
References	References are not or mostly not presented.	Occasional references are provided.	Complete references are generally present.	Sources of presented evidence are clearly and fairly represented.
Style	Format is not recognizable.	Format of document reflects incomplete knowledge of standard.	A standard format is used with minor violations	A standard format is used accurately and consistently
Mechanics	Writing errors are so numerous that they obscure meaning	Numerous writing errors that distract reader.	Occasional writing errors; don't represent a major distraction	Writing is free or almost free of errors.