

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (2010)

ANT 2000 - General Anthropology – Gonzalez-Tennant

Writing Assignment Reminders: (1) All writing assignments must be handed in by the end of class of the date they are due. **No late papers will be accepted unless arrangements are made with the instructor prior to turning in the paper;** (2) Email submissions will not be accepted.

Essays should be “free-standing.” This means that a person can read the essay and, while not having seen the movie or performance, can understand the point you are trying to make. The essay should not read like it came from a longer piece of writing.

In order to do this, your essay should have good structure. Good structure begins with an introductory sentence or sentences. All it really needs to be is a statement of the assignment with your argument included. (Ex. “Although the caste system was abolished after World War II, *Monsoon Wedding* gives evidence that it still affects Indian society, a fact most easily seen through its consideration of marriage.”) Also use a concluding sentence(s) that reiterates the arguments you just made in your paper. (Ex. “The examples of Dubey and Aditi prove that even though the caste system may still have an effect on Indian culture, it does not decide the success of marriages.”) In between these two sentences, break your essay into paragraphs. *The easiest way to do this is to separate each part of the argument into its own paragraph.*

In some assignments you will be asked for an opinion. *However*, in many assignments, you are not being asked for a personal opinion. In some, you are specifically asked to put together an essay supporting a specific position, not express your opinion. In such cases you should not be focusing on “What do *I* think about this topic?” but “What position does *the film* [or the film’s director] take on this topic?” For such a short essay, there is no need to go into anything else. Papers filled with opinions not related to the film or to the specific task assigned will be marked down. Writing to demonstrate that you have understood what the film’s producers were trying to express in no way indicate that you share their opinion.

Some other things to keep in mind in your writing are the following (you will lose points for not following these):

✿ **Proper grammar and mechanics count.** Papers will be evaluated both on proper grammar and on content. I expect good writing; I am impatient with poor writing.

✿ **Cite specific examples** from the film as basis for your points. Rehashing the plot does not say much unless you then go on to explain what the actions in the plot mean.

✿ **Do not make generalizations unless you have data to back it up.** For instance, do not assert that arranged marriages have a higher divorce rate than traditional marriages (or vice versa), *unless you can back the assertion up by citing a source* for the assertion.

✿ **Always use characters’ names in your writing.** This avoids confusion and strengthens the essay. You can keep track of names by taking notes.

✿ In formal writing, like these assignments, **avoid contractions** (i.e. don’t, can’t). Use full words (do not, can not).

✿ **Avoid slang or informal terms unless you are quoting dialogue.** If so, identify it with quotation marks.

✿ **Do not over use the first person** (i.e. “I think that...,” “It seems to me...,” “I noticed...,”). Although this is not grammatically incorrect and some use is perfectly all right, over use tends to make the paper sound too informal.

✿ **Proofread your papers.** Spell-check will not catch every mistake. Read the finished copy of your paper out loud. By doing this, you can really see if it sounds okay.

✿ **Double-space your papers** (for ease in grading and writing comments).

✿ **Margins** must be 1-inch on top, bottom, left, and right.

✿ **Font** must be Times New Roman 12-point.

NAME: _____

Assignment: _____

PM
TA's initials

ANT2000 Grading Rubric (Gonzalez-Tennant) 10 pt. assignments					
	Solid	Good	Pass	Fail	PTS.
STYLE ISSUES					
Mechanics: punctuation, spelling, grammar, proofreading	Essentially NO mechanically errors 2.0	A few difficulties 1.5	A moderate number of errors 1.0	Frequent errors, incl. spelling mistakes; haphazard punctuation; incomplete sentences 0.0	
Writing Style/ Organization avoidance of 'fluff,' good vocabulary, active voice, appropriate formality, logic of narrative, good paragraph structure	Writing is VERY good, expressive, and efficient, clearly developed paragraphs in good, logical sequence. No passive voice. 2.0	Writing is clear, very little passive voice; obeys basic rules of essay organization with few problems; only one or two awkward sentences; generally good flow 1.5	Writing is coherent, but passive voice or awkward sentences interfere; thesis statement poorly defined; paragraph structure disorganized; prose jumpy due to lack of good transitions; tone too informal 1.0	Writing difficult to understand; or too much slang or derogatory terms; no thesis or thesis irrelevant to assignment; paragraphs are unstructured or do not follow any order 0.0	
CONTENT ISSUES					
Focuses on the Assignment in sufficient detail	Entire essay centers on assignment (i.e., stays focused) and has roughly assigned length 2.0	Most of essay focuses on assignment 1.5	Some of essay focuses on assignment 1.0	Only a small section of the essay focuses on the assignment and/or significantly over or under length 0.0	
Ideas and Understanding	UNUSUAL insights; shows MORE than routine and normal understanding of film/performance <small>[assigned only to the very best 5-10% of papers]</small> 2.0	Discussion conforms to intent of assignment; shows student thought about and understood most the major concepts 1.5	Discussion coherent and related to the assignment, hits the most obvious issues, <u>but</u> little analytic depth 1.0	Ideas are randomly presented, argument not pursued, <u>or</u> assignment seriously misinterpreted; parts of film/performance not understood well. 0.0	
Supported Assertions	ALL assertions supported by relevant specific examples 2.0	Most major assertions <u>clearly supported</u> by some explanation or example 1.5	Some assertions supported explicitly; or perhaps implicitly 1.0	Assertions generally not supported or contradictory 0.0	

Scoring System

	<u>NORMAL:</u> POINT TOTAL FROM ABOVE (0 – 10 range)	
	DEDUCTIONS:	
	TOTAL	
<u>SERIOUS ASSIGNMT. FLAW:</u>	GENERAL DISREGARD OF THRUST OF ASSIGNMENT <u>or</u> SEEMS TO BE RESPONDING TO A SIMILAR BUT DIFFERENT ASSIGNMENT SHEET (perhaps a paper being re-circulated from another section or from previous year) : (0 - 4 range) Points from matrix NOT totaled	

Plagiarized papers are to be given a 0, and students submitting them are reported to the Dean of Students office for Academic Misconduct hearings.