

Endings/Sp. 2006

Essay 1: Grading Criteria

Here are the questions we will ask in grading Essay 1. A vigorous “Yes!” to each question below would probably result in a 4.0 essay.

Due dates and group process: Were you present in class at 9:00 A.M. on Friday, April 21, with two copies of a first draft of your essay? Did you participate in the process of giving and receiving feedback? Did you have a revised version of your essay ready to hand in at 9:00 A.N. on Tuesday, April 25? Did you hand it in together with a copy of your rough draft?

Title: Does your essay have a helpful title that suggests what the essay will be about?

Addressing the assignment: Does your essay focus on differences between religious and scientific thinking and writing as exhibited in writings concerning a great flood? Is it clear that you read the assignment handout very carefully and tried to follow it closely?

Thesis/claim/main idea(s): Early in your essay, do you state a basic claim or thesis about the differences between religious and scientific thinking and writing? Do you stick with this claim, and by the end of your essay have you made a strong argument for it?

Organization and cohesiveness: Do you develop your opening claim or thesis in clear, logical stages that a reader can follow? Along the way, do you use key words and other signposts to relate the different parts and paragraphs of your essay back to your opening thesis?

Transitions: Are there clear transitions from paragraph to paragraph, so that the reader can see the relation of one paragraph to the one before? Does sentence follow sentence smoothly?

Sentence structure and punctuation: Are basic sentence structure and punctuation under sufficient control for college writing? Was the tone and level of language appropriate for college writing?

Evidence and support: Do you bring in enough information and examples from the relevant texts and web resources with which you have been supplied?

Quotation and citation: Do you properly introduce and integrate quotations and specific references into your essay, and do you give proper citations, using the MLA format? (For purposes of this essay, this will mean having a “Works Cited” page in proper order and using parenthetical citations in your text when you quote or make a specific reference.)

“Going beyond” – the excellence factor. Does the essay go beyond the requirements of the assignment? In discussing both religious and scientific thinking and writing, does it go beyond the immediate “flood” material to draw on other readings and on lecture material about scientific and non-scientific thinking? Does the essay have some other form of excellence?