

Essay 1: Rubric

As you all work towards finalizing the project, note the following metrics by which I will be grading your projects.

1 STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS _____ / 7 POINTS

- Paper follows dictates of **the Seven-Point Plan** (see below) = ____ / 7pts
- Final Draft of the paper avoids an excess of grammatical/syntax errors = Essay may lose up to 5pts. The mistakes may include:
 - Usage of contractions/second person direct address
 - Lack of effective transitions
 - Cumbersome paragraph structure
- Paper has had all three drafts turned in on time = Per the syllabus, paper may lose 5pts for each draft not submitted

As a reminder:

The Seven-Point Plan:

In each of the papers written, there will be a recurring rubric of seven potential points for adhering to formatting requirements. Other guidelines for the individual papers will reflect their specific aims and criteria, but by following these few points, seven points can, in fact, be guaranteed:

- 4 pts - My paper meets the minimum requirements for **page-length**
(NOTE THAT MEETING THE MINIMUM PAGE LENGTH MEANS FIVE FULL PAGES. NOT FOUR AND A HALF, FOUR AND A THIRD, OR TWO LINES ON A FIFTH PAGE.)
- 1 pt - My paper is **double-spaced** and typed
- 1 pt - My paper has my **last name and page number** in the upper right hand corner of every page
- 1 pt - My paper has a **title** and the appropriate identification information
(My name, instructor's name, course number, draft number, date)

2 CONTENT _____ / 13 POINTS

- Essay's ability to provide some form of **synopsis** of episode and/or series: _____ / 3 points
 - Brevity
 - Contextualization
 - Effective introduction of key points and characters
- Essay's framing of a meaningful **Thesis** _____ / 2 points
 - Clearly puts forth an argument that is limited in scope, specific, and clearly defined
 - Thesis is readily visible or identifiable ("In what follows...")

- The essay effectively engages in a **Close Reading** of the text in question _____ / 8 points
 - The essay makes frequent and substantive references to the episode(s) in question (ideally, it might also have some contextualized quotes too).
 - The essay critically engages with the types of representation strategies (and does not simply “point out” or list stereotypes that might be present)
 - The essay may reference cultural and national factors, but should make special effort to center the discussion on the potential for reading race in the episode in question (or make serious and sustained arguments as to why the focus is elsewhere)
 - The essay is well-supplied with detailed discussions of the scenes that look at narrative and aesthetic choices.
 - **IF** the essay References to secondary materials (Dower, hooks, Ching, Levi, Napier, or even Oe) they are done to merely substantiate the central argument, not to be the focal point. They are also contextualized appropriately, and the authors are introduced by first and last name.