

POL Assessment Rubric	4- Exceeding	3- Achieving	2- Acceptable	1-Beginning
Argument/Focus	Exceptionally clear focused and interesting statement of argument(s)t that addresses research question (s) A conclusion that restates the argument, summarizing the findings explaining importance of the research and how it can be used	Clear argument (s) that addresses research question A clear conclusion that restates argument(s)t and says why the research is important	Contains argument(s) but with inconsistent focus and generally addresses research question(s) Conclusion tends to generally summarize research	Vague argument(s) lacks clarity or focus Missing a conclusion
Applying Political Science Theory	Chooses appropriate theory to interpret a specific problem/example/data Provides accurate and detailed explanation about how all relevant elements of the theory fit the problem/example/data Correctly assesses theory’s value (“is it the right tool?”) to address or solve a problem/issue	Chooses appropriate theory to interpret a specific problem/example/data Provides some moderate explanation about how elements of the theory fit the problem/example/data	Chooses appropriate theory to interpret a specific problem/example/data, but fails to provide any explanation OR an accurate explanation for how elements of the theory fit the problem/example/data	Fails to identify an appropriate pol sci theory to interpret a specific problem/example/data
Structure/Content	Demonstrates full knowledge with clear purpose and subject, pertinent examples, facts, and/or statistics; supports conclusions/ ideas with evidence	Has somewhat clear purpose and subject, some examples, facts, and / or statistics that support the subject: includes some data or evidence that	Attempts to define purpose and subject: provides data or examples, facts, and/or statistics, which do not adequately support the subject: Includes thin data or evidence	Does not clearly define subject or purpose; provides weak or no support of subject; gives insufficient support for ideas or conclusions
Use of Relevant Political Science Scholarship	Uses and cites abundance relevant scholarship Scholarship reflected in extended bibliography	Uses and cites relevant scholarship Most scholarship in bibliography	Some attempt to uses and cites relevant scholarship Some scholarship in bibliography	No attempt to use and cite relevant scholarship No bibliography