

## Rubric for Biology/Chemistry Essay

CONTENT	Strong	Acceptable	Weak
<b>Governing Claim (very important)</b>	Paper has a clear, non-obvious, interesting claim that neither restates the question nor asks one without answering it	Paper has a clear claim but it may be obvious or a simple restatement of the question	Paper makes no clear claim
<b>Scope</b>	Topic is clearly defined and limited	Topic is defined but limits aren't clear	Topic is either undefined or tries to do too much
<b>Topic sentences</b>	Each paragraph has a topic sentence that clearly links back to the thesis	Paragraphs have topic sentences but relationship to thesis is not always clear	No or few topic sentences; paragraphs not logically ordered

EVIDENCE	Strong	Acceptable	Weak
<b>Choice of evidence (very important)</b>	Claim is supported with evidence drawn from the text that is analyzed creatively and thoughtfully	Claim is supported with textual evidence but analysis is minimal or evidence is obvious	Claim is either unsupported or evidence is irrelevant
<b>Integration</b>	Quotations are smoothly integrated into the text	Not all quotations fully integrated; some awkward moments	Quotations not integrated into sentences, introducing grammatical or logical errors
<b>Analysis</b>	Each quotation is preceded or followed by analysis—at least 2 lines per quotation	Quotations are analyzed but some logical breaks or missing steps	Limited to no analysis of quotations; analysis never moves beyond paraphrase
<b>Academic Integrity (pass/fail)</b>	Sources are properly referenced		Essay lacks attribution for sources, whether course materials, online sources, or others

FORMAT	Strong	Acceptable	Weak
<b>Grammar</b>	Paper has been copy-edited and has no grammatical or spelling errors	Paper is largely error-free but some errors remain	Paper has not been copy-edited
<b>Style</b>	Writing is clear and graceful	Paper is usually clear and readable	Paper is awkward, repetitive, or hard to read.
<b>Concision (very important)</b>	Paper is concise and diction is well-chosen; style shows attention to revision	Paper is generally concise, though some wordiness may remain	Paper is wordy and vague