

Rubric for response papers and informal writing assignments

–	No single focus or clear thesis; often plot summary or a series of assertions without engagement with specific passages in the ancient texts; may be confused concerning factual details; may not address the major issues laid out in the assignment.
ok	Has a single focus, but may not include a provable assertion (thesis); there may be multiple observations, but are not explicitly tied together into a unified point; not enough specific evidence cited to support the author’s claims; may contain sentences that leave the reader confused or distracted.
fine	Has a thesis and some specific examples to support it, yet the thesis may remain general or simple; may leave out other examples important for exploring the thesis; may not explain or interpret the evidence sufficiently.
good	Clear attempt to answer an important question; the thesis is supported by specific examples from the readings, clearly explained; the closing paragraph ties together important claims made throughout the paper and is thematically related to the opening.
very good	Brings together multiple strands of evidence into a coherent whole; sets each piece of evidence into a clear context and interprets the evidence clearly, connecting it to the thesis; attempts to explain what effect the choices made in the text has upon the audience.
excellent	A thoughtful, complex, and nuanced analysis of the text(s); each section contributes to overall argument, supported by appropriate evidence, clearly interpreted and explained; includes all (or nearly all) the relevant evidence; the best papers may tie the evidence in the text under discussion with other readings or themes of the course, may suggest new implications for understanding the topic, or make connections with modern events or themes.