

Rubric 8c - Research Paper: Advanced Mid (Capstone Seminar)

TASK: Write a 10-page research paper that develops a clear thesis about a defining literary, linguistic, or cultural text or practice. Your paper must include an introduction, a review of secondary sources, a contextualization of the text. The review of secondary sources, the contextualization, and the interpretation and analysis may be presented discretely or interwoven, but the introduction and conclusion must be clearly identifiable. Example of a thesis: *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* deploys *boleros* and the conventions of melodrama to subvert traditional Spanish social relations during the post-Franco *destape*.

Parts of this rubric also measure NCATE Standard #2 (Cultures, Literatures, Cross-Disciplinary Concepts) for teacher candidates

Standard 2.a. Demonstrating Cultural Understandings.

Standard 2.b. Demonstrating Understanding of Literary and Cultural Texts and Traditions.

Category	Exceeds standards	Meets standards	Approaches standards	Does not approach standards
Introduction 15%	15 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title is appropriate and highly effective in capturing the paper's thesis. Main thesis is clearly stated. Introduction synthesizes ideas and critical issues associated with the text. 	13 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title is appropriate given the thesis. Main thesis is clearly stated. Introduction presents the main ideas and critical issues associated with the text. 	11 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title is somewhat appropriate but can be improved. Main thesis is suggested but not clearly stated. Introduction begins to present the main ideas and critical issues associated with the text. 	0 points to 9 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title is not related to the topic of the paper, or else is missing. Main thesis is not stated. Introduction does not present the main ideas and critical issues associated with the text.
Review of Primary and Secondary Sources 10%	10 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporates and critically evaluates competing perspectives from at least two relevant peer-reviewed scholarly essays. 	8 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporates perspectives from at least two relevant peer-reviewed scholarly essays. 	7 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begins to describe perspectives from one or two relevant peer-reviewed scholarly essays. 	0 points to 6 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not incorporate relevant peer-reviewed scholarship.
Contextualization 2.a. 10%	10 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes and critically evaluates the connection between the text and its historical and cultural context. 	8 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates the connection between the text and its historical and cultural context. 	7 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begins to connect the text to its historical and cultural context. 	0 points to 6 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not connect the text to its historical and cultural context.
Evidence 2.a. 10%	10 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cites as evidence for the thesis examples that reflect an understanding of the target culture as a system in which cultural perspectives are reflected through texts. 	8 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cites as evidence for the thesis examples that reflect a solid cultural knowledge base. 	7 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cites as evidence for the thesis examples that reflect a cultural knowledge base that is still developing. 	0 points to 6 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not provide as evidence examples of cultural practices, products, and perspectives from the target culture.

Interpretation 2.b. 15%	15 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interprets a defining literary or cultural text or work in the target culture from multiple viewpoints of the target culture. Explains why the selected text illustrates cultural changes and variations over time. Uses the tools of literary and/or cultural analysis to propose an original hypothesis about the selected text. 	13 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interprets a defining literary or cultural text or work in the target culture from multiple viewpoints of the target culture. Explains why the selected text illustrates cultural changes and variations over time. Uses the tools of literary and/or cultural analysis to interpret and explain the selected text. 	11 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is aware of major literary texts in the target culture, but the interpretation reveals a limited knowledge of these texts. Attempts to recognize the value and role of the selected text to interpret and reflect upon the perspectives of the target cultures over time. Relies on cultural analyses from secondary sources or that were learned in the classroom. 	0 points to 13 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not analyze examples.
Conclusion 10%	10 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesizes the findings of the research. Provides a personal assessment of the text. Demonstrates how the findings provide an original contribution to our understanding of the topic. 	8 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesizes the findings of the research. Provides a personal assessment of the text. 	7 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempts to synthesize the findings of the research. Provides a personal assessment of the text. 	0 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not synthesize the findings of the research. Attempts to provide or else does not provide a personal assessment of the text.
Organization and Style 10%	10 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essay is very organized with well-constructed paragraphs. Very smooth transitions between and within introduction, main body and conclusion. Shows own voice as a writer. 	8 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essay is organized with well-constructed paragraphs. Good transitions between and within introduction, main body and conclusion. Begins to develop own voice as a writer. 	7 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information is organized, but paragraphs are not well-constructed. Poor transitions. 	0 points to 6 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The information appears to be disorganized. Little or no transitions used.
Writing Mechanics 10%	10 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost no (or none) grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors. 	8 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very few grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors, but does not interfere with reading. 	7 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors; interferes somewhat with reading. 	0 points to 6 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors; interferes with reading.

Format and Length 10%	10 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always follows MLA format (title page, page layout, font, spacing, citations, footnotes, and bibliography). 2500 - 3000 words (10 - 11 pages). 	8 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost always follows MLA format. 2500 - 3000 words (10 -11 pages). 	7 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often follows MLA format. 2000 - 2500 words (7-9 pages) or more than 3000 words 	0 points to 6 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only sometimes follows MLA format. Less than 2000 words (6 pages or less).
Overall Score	Exceeds standards 90 or more	Meets standards 80 or more	Approaches standards 70 or more	Does not approach standards 0 or more