

Definition Rubric
 ENGL 1101
 Professor Bishop

Purpose (up to 20 points)	Much like Narrative writing, definitions must always have a purpose. We must know <i>why</i> we need to know this particular definition in order to be able to understand its significance and to use it. Points will be awarded for how clearly the essay addresses its purpose and follows through, without unnecessary distractions, on that purpose. The essay should be focused and clearly articulate what the central idea of the essay is <i>without</i> announcing it. Essays that are heavy-handed, lack sophistication, and ignore subtlety will not earn the maximum point value for this aspect of writing.
Use of Methods (up to 20 points)	Use of Methods in definition writing refers to the attentive and intentional use of the methods of definition-writing, as outlined in <i>Sundance</i> . Essays will be awarded points based on the mastery of each employed method of definition. Failure to master these methods will result in lower point totals.
Grammar & Mechanics (up to 20 points)	Grammar and mechanics are essential to any piece of writing. Points will be awarded based upon how well the essay adheres to standard academic English, with a special focus upon avoiding the four major errors (sv, cs, fs, sf), as well as significant errors (2 nd person, pn-agr, verb tenses, etc.) and minor errors (improper punctuation, tense shifts, lack of consistency in usage, etc.). Any essay that has a significant combination of errors will not be awarded the maximum point value for this aspect of writing. See the “Common Error Guide” for list of errors and their classifications.
Development (up to 15 points)	Development, in this instance, refers to the depth in which ideas have been cultivated, and how those ideas are expressed in the essay. To earn the maximum point value, the essay should feature relevant details that are specific enough for the assignment objective. Any unnecessary details, a lack of essential details, or generally poor development will result in low point awards.
Organization (up to 15 points)	Organization in the backbone of the essay, which means it keeps the essay straight and moving. Points will be awarded for organization provided the essay has a clear and logical pattern of motion from one event or idea to the next. Chronology is not organization, though it may play a role in the organizational pattern of the essay.
Style (up to 5 points)	Style points will be hard to come by in the early days/weeks of the term. It is, in reality, one of the hardest things to teach; however, it is one of the easiest things to learn independently (hint: read a lot of different media). Style refers to the way that the other elements of expository writing are employed, with special attention to development, organization, and purpose. Style points will be earned by demonstrating a mastery of the language and the assignment, as well as understanding the versatility of language and sentence structures.
Originality (up to 5 points)	Originality points will be awarded to essays that offer innovative ideas, expressed clearly and through standard conventions. Often times students offer only the expected details of a narrative, but those essays that earn originality points will employ imagination and creativity in meaningful ways.
Total Point Value:	Comments: