



## **Hierarchy of Concerns for Assessing Writing**

### **Appropriateness**

- Does the essay fit the assignment?

### **Thesis and Scope**

- Is there a clear thesis or point of view?
- Is the topic too wide or too narrow?

### **Development/Critical Thinking/Supporting detail**

- Does the writer consider various points of view and counterarguments?
- Are there places in the essay where more details, examples, or specifics are needed?
- Does the writer use evidence to support all assertions?
- Is the evidence from the appropriate kinds of sources?

### **Clarity/Organization**

- Does the essay make sense as a whole?
- Are paragraphs cohesive? (Are there paragraphs?)
- Does the essay lead somewhere, or wander off?
- Do transitional sentences or phrases connect ideas?

### **Tone/Word Choice/Sentence Structure**

- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the tone appropriate for both the audience and the purpose of the essay?
- Is vocabulary sufficiently sophisticated? Are words repeated?
- Is sentence structure varied? Do sentences start and stop appropriately?

### **Grammar/Punctuation/Formatting**

- Do errors in grammar, punctuation, or formatting distract from the message of the essay?
- Do citations follow the appropriate style?