Computer Science Major

Atomistic Rubric

1) Is a **main idea** or **purpose** included and clearly identified?
   - states or implies what will be proven, shown or defended
2) Are all **main points related to the main idea or purpose**?
   - correlation of each main point to the main idea/purpose
3) Are **sufficient details** used to support the main points?
   - examples and explanations used to develop main ideas and generalities
   - objective evidence correctly documented, *if appropriate*
4) Are the **main points arranged in a logical pattern**?
   - main ideas ordered in a sequence appropriate to topic and purpose
5) Are **transitions** present?
   - signal words and phrases used to connect paragraphs and ideas
6) Are there **no or relatively few** syntactical/grammatical errors?
   - errors in sentence structure, spelling, grammar, and punctuation must not distract or confuse reader
7) Is the **format** appropriate?
   - elements of formatting (document design and layout) and appearance are correct and consistent with purpose
   - includes appropriate presentation of documentation, *if required*
8) Is the **tone appropriate** for intended audience?
   - word choice and attitude toward audience and topic is consistent with author's purpose
   - technical content is appropriate for intended audience
9) Is there a **conclusion**?
   - reaffirms main idea or purpose
   - provides closure for reader
10) Is the **purpose accomplished**?
    - the text adequately meets the major requirements of the assignment

adapted from Johnson and Wales University website
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Holistic Rubric

Note: Each level builds upon the level below it – to best understand Level $n$, start at Level 1 and work your way up to Level $n$.

Level 5: Excellent
- outstanding title and introduction, including provocative central idea or purpose
- presents thoughtful ideas and develops them logically, fully and clearly
- support paragraphs present concrete, relevant, and representative evidence
- essay is unified and coherent, author’s tone is appropriate and consistent
- language is accurate and appropriate for audience
- definitive conclusion which reaffirms central idea or purpose
- no significant errors of syntax or mechanics
- presence and incorporation of references, if appropriate

Level 4: Impressive
- a creative and effective introduction with a clear main idea or purpose
- supporting details logically relate to the central idea
- strong sense of organization, focus, and development which includes transitions, shows attention to phrasing and sentence variety
- language suits audience well
- distinct conclusion
- very few significant errors of syntax or mechanics
- presence and incorporation of references, if appropriate

Level 3: Adequate
- clear statement of central idea or purpose
- some support details, but may not be as fully developed as necessary to present a convincing and logical argument that is unified and coherent
- evidence of three part structure (thesis/topic, examples/analysis, conclusion/summarization)
- attention to appropriate language and paragraph transitions
- minor errors in syntax or mechanics
- presence and incorporation of documentation, if appropriate

Level 2: Minimal
- weak/vague main idea or purpose
- distinct introduction and conclusion paragraphs, but too basic to be effective
- support paragraphs develop main idea or purpose but lack specific examples and details and sense of organization
- tone and language is generally consistent and appropriate to subject and audience, but paragraph transitions are lacking
- moderate number of errors of syntax or grammar
- presence of documentation, if appropriate

Level 1: Ineffective
- main idea or purpose not identifiable, no attempt at distinct introduction, support and conclusion paragraphs
- essay lacks unity, no evidence of transitions, tone and language is inconsistent and/or inappropriate for subject and audience
- major syntax errors
- lacking appropriate documentation if documentation is necessary

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Formatting and Submission Policies

- Technical advisory
  - Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format - alternate formats will not be accepted
    - If you use a word processor other than Word, make sure that you can save your work in .doc or .docx format
  - Feedback will be provided via Track Changes and/or comments inserted into submitted documents and returned via email. A quick tutorial on Track Changes will be provided early in the course.

- Formatting requirements
  - 12 point type
  - All margins will be ¾"
  - Double spacing

- Submissions will be made electronically as specified by the course instructor (email, course management system, etc.)

- A draft of a writing assignment may be submitted for review prior to "final submission" - such requests for review must be submitted via email no later than 72 hours before the due date for the assignment. Drafts will be reviewed and feedback provided via "Track Changes" and/or comments.

- Submissions must attain an average numeric grade of at least 2 on the Rubric for Writing in order to receive credit. Note that the Holistic and Atomistic Rubrics are provided for guidance/advisory purposes only.
  - Submissions that are substantially below passing will require a face-to-face meeting with the course instructor to discuss problems and/or areas of weakness.

- The presence and incorporation of documentation and/or references to support arguments and opinions is an essential component of all submissions in this course - failure to include and properly incorporate support material will be sufficient cause for a submission to receive no (0) credit.