

Assessment 8
Social Dimensions of Scientific Practice

Self-Assessment Rubric

Please use the following rubric to assign a point value to your essay. For each category—Style, Defense, Assessment—assign the point value that best characterizes your essay. To calculate your grade, add up the assigned point values, and then multiply this sum by 4. (For example, if Style = 3, Defense = 8, and Assessment = 7, your grade would be 72%. First, sum these numbers: $3+8+7=18$, and then multiply by 4: $18*4=72$.)

Read your essay aloud, at full volume, as if you were reading to someone else. The extra sensory input—aural and visual—will help make salient to you the relevant features of your essay.

Style	Comments
5.0: A	The paper has few to no grammatical mistakes (no spelling errors, fragments, excessively long sentences, obscure sentences, etc.). The paper is clearly written (avoids unfamiliar or complicated words when familiar or simpler ones will do, avoids ambiguous terms, gives illustrative examples, etc.). It avoids rhetorical questions and uses paragraphs in an intelligent way (one key idea per paragraph). There are proper citations. Each sentence is necessary to support or explain some other sentence.
4.0: B	The paper contains more than a few minor grammatical errors (an occasional misspelled word or misplaced comma, etc.). There are some awkwardly phrased sentences or other minor stylistic deficiencies.
3.0: C	The paper has a few significant, or minor but recurring, grammatical errors. The paper has a large number of awkwardly phrased sentences, bad transitions, or unhelpful citations. The paper uses rhetorical questions as a way to make claims.
2.0: D	The paper has many significant, recurring grammatical errors. The author's meaning is difficult to discern because of awkward writing.
1.0: F	The paper is a stylistic disaster.



Defense	Comments
10.0: A+ 9.0: A	There is a clear and concise thesis about the values President Obama thinks should drive scientific research. The thesis identifies two such values. There are several quotations or citations from President Obama's address that provide evidence to support this thesis. There is a discussion of how this evidence supports the thesis.
8.0: B	There is a clear and concise thesis about the values President Obama thinks should drive scientific research. The thesis identifies two such values. There are several quotations or citations from President Obama's address that provide evidence to support this thesis. However, there is no discussion of how this evidence supports the thesis.
7.0: C	There is a clear and concise thesis about the values President Obama thinks should drive scientific research. There are quotations or citations from President Obama's address that provide evidence to support this thesis. However, either the thesis only identifies one value, or the evidence to support the thesis is sparse.
6.0: D	There is a clear and concise thesis about the values President Obama thinks should drive scientific research. However, there is no evidence given from President Obama's address to support this thesis.
5.0: F	There is an utter failure to defend a thesis about the values President Obama thinks should drive scientific research.

Assessment	Comments
10.0: A+ 9.0: A	There is a thesis about whether the values President Obama thinks should drive scientific research undermine the <i>authority</i> of scientific knowledge. There is an argument given to support this thesis. There also is a thesis about whether the values President Obama thinks should drive scientific research undermine the <i>objectivity</i> of scientific knowledge. There is an argument given to support this second thesis.
8.0: B	There is a thesis about whether the values President Obama thinks should drive scientific research undermine the <i>authority</i> of scientific knowledge. There also is a thesis about whether the values President Obama thinks should drive scientific research undermine the <i>objectivity</i> of scientific knowledge. However, there is only an argument for one of these two theses.
7.0: C	There is only one of the aforementioned theses, and an argument for that one thesis.
6.0: D	There is only one of the aforementioned theses, and no supporting argument for that thesis.
5.0: F	There is an utter failure to critically assess the appropriateness of President Obama's values for the authority and objectivity of scientific knowledge.

