

### Scoring Rubric for the Public-issue Assignment

Criterion for Public Issue Paper	Response	Evaluation
<p><b>Choice and focus of topic:</b> Does the paper/production fit the assigned topic? Has the topic been narrowed so that it focuses on a manageable area within the larger assigned topic? Is the topic easily identified? Does this appear to fall into the category of persuasive discourse?</p>		
<p><b>Thesis:</b> Is the position taken by the writer(s) of this paper/production easy to identify. Is the purpose of the paper clear? What sentence indicates the paper's position?</p>		
<p><b>Audience accommodation:</b> Does the paper/production seem to be aimed at a specific audience? Is the audience a public audience? Is there evidence that the writers consciously attempted to make the paper/production friendly to that audience?</p>		
<p><b>Effective use of genre, structure, medium:</b> Is this paper/production in the right medium given the topic and implied audience? Would another medium have been more effective? If so, why do you think so? How would you describe the genre of the paper/production? Does the paper/production have a clearly thought out structure? If so, could you outline or diagram it easily?</p>		
<p><b>Command of topic:</b> Does the paper/production show that the writer(s) have researched the topic thoroughly, showing a clear understanding of more than one side of the issue? Does it have multiple citations? Are the citations to people and documents that count? Does the paper cite scientific and authoritative documents from library databases, hardcopy journals, interviewees, and books beyond those assigned in class rather than web resources alone?</p>		
<p><b>Persuasiveness:</b> Does the paper/production take a position or announce a purpose clearly? If so, what arguments are given in support of the position? What arguments are given to refute opposing positions? Are the claims supported by evidence and reasoning? Are there attempts to affect the reader's emotional reaction? If so, are they effective and appropriate? Do the writers/producers of this paper/production come off looking competent, well-informed, well-disposed, and fair?</p>		
<p><b>Editing:</b> How professional does this paper/production look? If it is a production, does it look amateurish in some way? If so how? If it is a paper, do the sentence structure, document design, grammar, spelling and so on support the image of care and competence or undermine it in some way?</p>		
<p><b>Comments:</b></p>		