**Lake Forest College First-Year Studies: Assessing Writing Skills**

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| **Criterion** | **Exceeds** **Expectations: 3**  | **Meets Expectations: 2**  | **Does not meet expectations: 1** |
| **Argument**  | Argument is clear and provocative. Body supports thesis with evidence from authoritative sources or analysis that is both thorough and careful  | Argument is clear and sufficiently demonstrates a thesis.  | Thesis is missing or paper does not cover the idea stated in the thesis. |
| **Flow** | Ideas arranged in a logical order that is clear to the reader.Transitions guide the reader through the argument. Conclusion summarizes main idea and shows import of argument. | Ideas are organized logically.Topic sentences are used to guide the reader.Conclusion restates main idea | Movement among ideas is abrupt or illogical. Paragraphs are not coherent. |
| **Depth** | Writer provides new information, clarity, or a unique perspective to scholarly discussion of the topic. | Paper shows some focused coverage of topic.  | Paper appears to be hastily written without proper research or analytic work completed. |
| **Use of Sources** | Quotations are limited. Evidence supports interpretation.Material from other others is smoothly integrated. | Material from other authors is properly credited and connected to focus of the paper.  | Material from other authors is used without proper citation, and/or without consequence or significance.  |
| **Grammar** | Writing follows the grammatical and spelling conventions of standard English.  | Writing generally follows the grammatical and spelling conventions of standard English.  | Writing is difficult to follow because the paper is riddled with errors and imprecise expression. |
| **Voice/****Style** | Word choice is precise and sophisticated.Sentences are stylistically interesting. | Word choice is formal.  | Word choice colloquial. Sentence structure simplistic. |