Grading Criteria:

- **Focus**
  (Is there a central argument? Is the central argument focused enough to be covered in the space given?)
- **Organization**
  (Is the structure clear and easy to follow?)
- **Development**
  (Is there supporting material [such as examples and citations to the readings]? Is the supporting material relevant? If there is extensive supporting material, is it synthesized effectively?)
- **Course Material**
  (Are course concepts and readings deployed when they are relevant? When course concepts and readings are included, are they used correctly? Does the use of course concepts and readings demonstrate that the writer understands them?)
- **Mechanics and Style**
  (Is the assignment free of spelling, typographical, and grammatical errors? Are sentences well formed? Are words chosen carefully?)

Grades:
A grading key that converts these percentages into the final course grade is available on the course Web site. (Weekly questions are graded only in intervals of 10% since they are typically short.)

100% credit: Excellent in all or nearly all aspects. Marked by the originality of ideas. Style and organization are natural and effective.

90% credit: Technically competent, with a lapse here and there. The argument is clear and reasonable, and the writing is generally effective.

80% credit: Competent but not yet good. Adequately organized but the thesis may be over simple or imprudent. Some errors throughout. In some assignments, excellent ideas may be marked by poor presentation, or the organization and structure might not be flawed but the ideas and how they are developed need improvement.

70% credit: Some effort was made but there are many flaws. Important elements of the assignment may have been ignored.

60% credit: Demonstrating minimal effort on the author's part. Assignment may be too short, or the piece may not respond to the assignment. The writing may be difficult to read.

0% credit: The assignment was late or not turned in.