

**Quadrennial Defense Review Paper Evaluation Sheet  
Political Science 572: U.S. Defense Policy**

**What is this:** This semester I am using a grading method called "Primary Trait Analysis" (for details, see Barbara E. Walvoord and Virginia Johnson Anderson. 1998. *Effective Grading*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass). The evaluation of your paper will be based on the criteria given below.

The numerical scores are intended to sum to the usual 90-100=A, 80-90=B scale. Note that this means most of the points awarded are in a very narrow range, rather like the suggestion that professional basketball games could be shortened by simply giving each team 100 points, and then playing for five minutes.

For most students, this sheet will probably provide sufficient feedback. If you would like additional written comments beyond this evaluation, please indicate this on the first page of your paper—you should feel free to ask for this provided that you have turned the paper in on time, and it will not affect how I evaluate the paper.

**Please turn in this form with your paper**, and fill in the outlined "Pages" sections so that I know where to look for each part of the assignment.

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Criteria:**

The five sections will be scored 18 points each; quality of research counts another 10 points. The following are the general guidelines for the scoring (borrowed with modifications from John Breihan, see Walvoord and Anderson, page 75):

- 17-18** Section thoroughly addresses the issues and relevant sub-issues and provides specific evidence; counter-arguments and counter-examples are fully answered; substantial use of primary evidence.
- 15-16** Section adequately addresses the issues and relevant sub-issues and provides specific evidence; counter-arguments and counter-examples are mentioned but not fully answered.; some use of primary evidence.
- 13-14** Section addresses the issues and relevant sub-issues but some of the arguments or evidence are incomplete; counter-arguments and counter-examples are not adequately answered; all evidence is from secondary sources.
- 10-12** Issues and relevant sub-issues are not fully addressed; evidence is missing, incomplete, incorrect, irrelevant or anachronistic.
- 0-9** Paper ignores this issue; section is incomprehensible due to errors in language or usage; paper contains serious factual errors. [In other words, you've got to really mess up, or not do the assignment at all, for the score to be this low. But it can be done...]

\_\_\_\_\_ **1.** What is the current policy and what is the problem that the recommendation seeks to solve.

PAGES:
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\_\_\_\_\_ **2.** What are the implications of the recommendation with respect to alternative grand strategies, and to what extent is it actually a 21<sup>st</sup> century reform

PAGES:
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\_\_\_\_\_ **3.** What are the alternatives to the policy and who is suggesting them?

PAGES:
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\_\_\_\_\_ **4.** What are the sources of opposition and support for the recommended changes?

PAGES:
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\_\_\_\_\_5. What do you expect *will happen* in the future, both with respect to the policy that will be adopted (or not) and the consequences of that policy (or the failure to change it)?

PAGES:
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**Secondary criteria**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Length**

- 0 Paper is in the 10-12 page range
- 5 Paper is significantly shorter than 10 pages, though it may actually go to 10 pages due to creative formatting
- 3 Paper is significantly longer than 12 pages and the additional material is not justified

\_\_\_\_\_ **Sources**

- 10 Thorough research using multiple primary sources; creative use of class readings
- 8 Sources are sufficient to capture the important characteristics of the case
- 6 Only minimal sources have been used
- 0-4 Insufficient research to properly understand the policy; no use of the class readings

\_\_\_\_\_ **Citation Style**

<b>PLEASE INDICATE WHICH CITATION STYLE YOU USED</b>
_____ American Psychological Association (APA)
_____ Chicago Manual of Style (CMS or "Turabian")

- 1 to -10 Citations and/or bibliography departs significantly from the standard style. If a standard style is not used and I can't track the sources, the paper may also be returned for re-writing before it is graded; this will incur the late penalty.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Citation of web-based sources**

- 1 to -10 Web citations depart significantly from the required style. If the standard style is not used and I can't track the sources, the paper may also be returned for re-writing before it is graded; this will incur the late penalty.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Use of "edited standard written English."**

- 1 to -10 More than an average of two grammatical errors per page

\_\_\_\_\_ **Late papers.**

- 4 points (out of 100 points) per day. You don't need to ask permission to turn in a late paper: you just get the penalty.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Total Numerical Score**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Letter Grade**

**COMMENTS:**