Paper Rubric (36 pts) Critical Zone Science

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| Criteria | Exemplary (6) | Good (4-5) | Acceptable (2-3) | Unacceptable (0-1) |
| Purpose | The writer's central purpose or argument is readily apparent to the reader. | The writing has a clear purpose or  argument, but may sometimes digress from it. | The central purpose or argument is not consistently clear  throughout the paper. | The purpose or argument is generally unclear. |
| Content | Balanced presentation of relevant and legitimate  information that clearly  supports a central purpose or argument and shows a thoughtful, in-depth analysis of a significant topic. Reader gains important insights. | Information provides reasonable support for a central purpose or argument and displays evidence of a basic analysis of a significant topic. Reader gains some insights. | Information supports a central purpose or argument at times. Analysis is basic or general. Reader gains few insights. | Central purpose or argument is not clearly identified.  Analysis is vague or not evident. Reader is confused or may be misinformed. |
| Organization | The ideas are arranged logically to support the purpose or argument. They flow smoothly from one to another and are clearly linked to each other. The reader can follow the line of reasoning. | The ideas are arranged logically to support the central purpose or argument. They are usually clearly linked to each other. For the most part, the reader can follow the line of reasoning. | In general, the writing is arranged logically, although occasionally ideas fail to make sense together. The reader is fairly clear about what writer intends. | The writing is not logically organized. Frequently, ideas fail to make sense together. The reader cannot identify a line of reasoning and loses interest. |
| Feel | The writing is compelling. It hooks the reader and sustains interest throughout. | The writing is generally engaging,  but has some dry spots. In general, it is focused and keeps the reader's attention. | The writing is dull and unengaging. Though the paper has some interesting parts, the reader finds it difficult to maintain interest. | The writing has little personality. The reader quickly loses interest and stops reading. |
| Grammar,  Spelling,  Writing  Mechanics  (punctuation,  italics, capitalization,  etc. | The writing is free or almost free of errors. | There are occasional errors, but they don't represent a major distraction or obscure meaning. | The writing has many errors, and the reader is distracted by them. | There are so many errors that meaning is obscured. The reader is confused and stops reading. |
| Length & Spacing | Paper and spacing follow directions specified in the assignment. | Paper or spacing nearly follows directions specified in the assignment. | Paper or spacing does not follow directions specified in the assignment. | Paper and spacing does not follow directions specified in the assignment. |

Modified from <http://www.k-state.edu/assessment/toolkit/measurement/resrubric.pdf>