

March to March- Pandemic through the eyes of an Adjunct Instructor

March 4, 2020

The first Covid case in Houston was confirmed today. It's real. It's here!

March 9, 2020

Asian owned businesses are being banned; Asian students are reporting some harassment. When will we learn from past mistakes?

March 11, 2020

Today's the last day before spring break. People are talking in hushed tones in the Adjunct Faculty Room. Everyone is worried! It's unclear whether we'll go back to college after break, but most of my work is online anyway. I have nothing to worry....

March 25, 2020

I was wrong! Online teaching is not easy! There's far more than merely posting notes and assignments. The college is offering several training sessions though! Never waste a crisis!

April 13, 2020

This is like flying an airplane still learning to fly! Technical issues plague online teaching and it's embarrassing to ask someone for help every time. Students have other sets of problems- technical and personal. It's agonizing! There is no distinction between work and home life.

April 30, 2020

Online teaching has provided many opportunities for learning. This may be the way to the future. Wish I knew somethings before, they could have helped my synchronous classes too.

May 15, 2020

I'm glad this unusual semester is over! As if the transition was not enough, we had the teacher reviews this semester. It's uncomfortable knowing that someone is watching you the whole time.

July 12, 2020

My heart sinks listening to Covid stories that students share. They are my window to the outside world amidst this isolating online environment.

August 2, 2020

With all this training and technology, hope we can attract more students. We need to find ways make teaching more efficient in this online environment.

August 25, 2020

Fall semester begins. Online again. Students prefer synchronous over asynchronous classes.

October 10, 2020

It is heartbreaking to hear about job loss, sickness, and death from students. How can I expect students to be attentive amidst all this? How can I be compassionate and rigorous at the same time?

October 20, 2020

I wonder how my colleagues are doing.

November 5, 2020

College is talking about Flex teaching next semester. I think it is going to be confusing for instructors and students. More time and energy will be spent on solving technology related issues rather than actual teaching.

December 15, 2020

End of another semester. The Flex training was a joke! Nobody seemed to know anything.

Jan 20, 2021

New semester. Low enrollment. Less courses. Less income.

Jan 30, 2021

Students are trying to balance school, work, and home life. But I am exasperated by the things I have seen students do in class - lying in bed, eating, driving, talking on the phone, and even being completely naked!

Feb 20, 2021

Now a winter storm! As if the pandemic was not enough! We are struggling to get food and water and I still need to grade my essays.

March 3, 2021

With vaccines now available, hope next semesters are not much trouble. We need to find creative ways to bring students back.

March 10, 2021

This pandemic has compelled me to learn and master things outside my comfort zone. Online teaching has allowed me to structure my course better. I am even getting better at recording video lectures!

March 17, 2021

.....But at what cost? While there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel, will the insouciance, the lost opportunities, livelihoods, and the loved ones ever come back?

We are evaluating essays for:

- Organization
- Strong style and personal voice
- Originality and clarity of content and ideas

How to use the rubric:

Please use this rubric as a measure of what we will be looking for when selecting winning essays. This rubric should provide guidelines, not an unreasonable or rigid standard. You have probably encountered a rubric before, but here is a quick guide to using this one:

- Along the left side of the rubric grid are the criteria for evaluating essays.
- Along the top of the grid, we have scores from 4 (outstanding) to 1 (poor).
- For each criterion, match the essay with the description that best fits it and assign a score in the rightmost column.
- Once you have scored the essay on all the criteria, add those five numbers. That is the score for the essay.

	4	3	2	1	Score
Focus on Topic	There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main idea is supported by detailed information.	Main idea is clear, but details are not clearly relevant or connected to the main idea.	Main idea is somewhat clear, but there is need for more relevant evidence.	Main idea is <i>not</i> clear. There is a seemingly random collection of information.	
Organization	Details are presented in a way that effectively keeps the reader's interest.	Details are presented in a way that sometimes makes the writing less interesting.	Details are presented in a manner that distracts the reader.	There is no clear structure to the paper.	
Originality and strength of ideas	Formulates a thought-provoking, well-developed, and fairly original perspective on essay theme.	Writer takes a clear perspective on essay theme, though it is not developed fully.	Writer's perspective on essay theme is evident, though it is vague.	Fails to provide a clear perspective on essay theme, or writer contradicts himself.	
Quality of evidence/examples	Provides compelling and insightful evidence/examples that demonstrates the author's perspective.	Offers adequately compelling – though perhaps vague or incomplete – supporting evidence/examples.	Provides compelling but sometimes confusing evidence/examples to support writer's perspective.	Offers only general evidence/examples that are sometimes contradictory to the writer's perspective.	
Voice	Author's voice is strong and engaging. Draws reader in.	Writing attracts reader's interest. Author's voice shows engagement with the topic.	Technically well written; however, author's voice is weak.	Writing fails to engage the reader.	
				TOTAL	

Adapted from Rubric for Editorial – Commentary Essay from LAEP.org and the 6+1 Traits of Writing Rubric from Readwritethink.org