CJ-200 - Opinion Paper Rubric

Name: ______________________________ Score: _____ / 40 points possible

Does the student identify and discuss the problem or question at issue?
- Clearly identifies and thoroughly discusses the issue: 7 or 8 points
- Clearly identifies the issue but does not discuss it in enough depth: 5 or 6 points
- Identifies a relevant issue but is confused about it, misrepresents it, or does not clearly identify/discuss it: 3 or 4 points
- Does not identify the issue accurately, or identifies an irrelevant issue: 0 to 2 points

Does the student give reasons for conclusions, assumptions, beliefs and opinions?
- Gives reasons that are complete, fully developed, consistently clear, and highly relevant: 7 or 8 points
- Gives reasons that are nearly complete, somewhat developed, usually clear, and somewhat connected: 5 or 6 points
- Gives reasons that are adequate but incomplete, sometimes clear, and/or not very well connected: 3 or 4 points
- Gives reasons that are skimpy, poorly developed or connected, confused: 0 to 2 points

Does the student identify and present his/her own position on the issue?
- Clearly identifies and presents a position, provides a clear explanation of the position, and clearly links it to the issue: 4 points
- Clearly identifies and presents a position, but does not provide a clear explanation of the position or a clear link to the issue: 2 or 3 points
- Identifies and presents a position, but it's vague, confused, unclear, or not clearly linked to the issue: 1 point
- Does not identify or present a position on the issue: 0 points

Does the student identify, present, and consider another perspective and position on the issue?
- Clearly identifies and explains another relevant positions and thoroughly discusses and responds to it: 4 points
- Identifies and explains another relevant position, but does not thoroughly discuss or respond to it: 2 or 3 points
- Identifies another relevant position but does not explain, discuss, or respond to it: 1 point
- Does not identify another perspective or position: 0 points

Does the student identify and use new information as supporting data to evaluate conclusions, assumptions, and beliefs?
- Identifies relevant information/data/cases from several academically accepted sources, and sources are presented and are credible: 4 points
- Identifies some information/data/cases, but does not develop it adequately, or sources are either not presented or are not credible sources: 2 or 3 points
- Identifies skimpy information, or it is unsubstantiated, confused, or misrepresented or is not clearly relevant to the position: 1 point
- Does not use or identify information/data/cases: 0 points

Criminal Justice/J.Sherwood
Does the student demonstrate the ability to estimate a solution to the issue?

Provides a very clear, logical, creative, well-thought-out and reasonable solution to the issue: 4 points

Provides a solution to the issue, but it may not be very creative, logical, clear, or reasonable: 2 or 3 points

Provides an illogical, unreasonable, uncreative, or unclear solution to the issue: 1 point

Doesn't provide any apparent solution to the issue: 0 points

Does the student complete work independently or with help from the instructor, tutoring center, or writing center, and appropriately acknowledge the source of ideas and contributions of others?

Consistently and appropriately cites sources and produces own work: 4 points

Acknowledges sources but doesn't consistently and appropriately use correct citations: 2 or 3 points

Doesn't exhibit much understanding of appropriateness of citing or acknowledging sources, citations are attempted but incorrect: 1 point

Fails to use citations, plagiarizes: 0 points on the entire paper

Does the student use appropriate mechanics, grammar, spelling, punctuation and comply with the expectations and requirements for the paper?

Correctly uses appropriate mechanics, grammar, spelling and punctuation, and complies with all requirements for the paper: 4 points

Substantially uses appropriate mechanics, grammar, spelling and punctuation, and complies with all requirements for the paper: 3 points

Substantially uses appropriate mechanics, grammar, spelling and punctuation, but does not comply with all requirements for the paper: 1 or 2 points

Many errors in mechanics, grammar, spelling and punctuation interfere with reading and/or understanding the paper: 0 points
CJ200 - Opinion Paper - Applying Critical Thinking

Level 4: 40 points
1. Clearly identifies and thoroughly discusses the issue
2. Gives reasons that are complete, fully developed, consistently clear, and highly relevant
3. Clearly identifies and presents a position, provides a clear explanation of the position, and clearly links it to the issue
4. Clearly identifies and explains other relevant positions and thoroughly responds to each one
5. Identifies relevant information/data/cases from several academically accepted sources, and sources are presented and are credible
6. Provides a clear, logical, creative, well-thought-out and reasonable solution to the issue
7. Consistently and appropriately cites sources and produces own work
8. Correctly uses appropriate mechanics, grammar, spelling and punctuation, and complies with all requirements for the paper

Level 3: 30 to 40 points
1. Clearly identifies the issue but does not discuss it in enough depth
2. Gives reasons that are nearly complete, somewhat developed, usually clear, and somewhat connected
3. Clearly identifies and presents a position, but does not provide a clear explanation of the position or a clear link to the issue
4. Identifies and explains other relevant positions, but does not thoroughly respond to each one
5. Identifies some information/data/cases, but does not develop it adequately, or sources are either not presented or are not credible sources
6. Provides a solution to the issue, but it may not be creative, logical, clear or reasonable
7. Acknowledges sources but doesn't consistently and appropriately use correct citations
8. Substantially uses appropriate mechanics, grammar, spelling and punctuation, and complies with all requirements for the paper

Level 2: 20 to 30 points
1. Identifies a relevant issue but is confused about it, misrepresents it, or does not clearly identify/discuss it
2. Gives reasons that are adequate but incomplete, sometimes clear, and not very well connected
3. Identifies and presents a position but is vague, confused, unclear, or not clearly linked to the issue
4. Identifies other relevant positions but does not explain or respond to them
5. Identifies skimpy information, or it is unsubstantiated, confused, or misrepresented or is not clearly relevant to the position
6. Provides an illogical, unreasonable, uncreative, or unclear solution to the issue
7. Doesn't exhibit much understanding of appropriateness of citing or acknowledging sources, citations are attempted but incorrect
8. Substantially uses appropriate mechanics, grammar, spelling and punctuation, but does not comply with all requirements for the paper
Level 1: 10 to 20 points
1. Does not identify the issue accurately, or identifies an irrelevant issue
2. Gives reasons that are skimpy, poorly developed and connected, confused
3. Does not identify or present a position on the issue
4. Does not identify another perspective or position
5. Does not use or identify information/data/cases
6. Doesn't provide any apparent solution to the issue
7. Fails to use appropriate citations in any consistent way
8. Many errors in mechanics, grammar, spelling and punctuation that interfere with reading and/or understanding the paper

Level 0: 0 points
1. Not turned in on time
2. plagiarized/copied
3. illegible
4. Does not address the issue/totally off topic