

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Adam Vlček

Title: The Liberal Democrats—History, Power, and Plans

Length: 30

Text Length: 35

<i>Assessment Criteria</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1. Introduction is well written, brief, interesting, and compelling. It motivates the work and provides a clear statement of the examined issue. It presents and overview of the thesis.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	This is well written, but I don't really think that it communicates an argument.
2. The thesis shows the author's appropriate knowledge of the subject matter through the background/review of literature. The author presents information from a variety of quality electronic and print sources. Sources are relevant, balanced and include critical readings relating to the thesis or problem. Primary sources are included (if appropriate).	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The author knows quite a lot, but the use of electronic sources is not APA format. Quotations also don't meet APA format.
3. The author carefully analyzed the information collected and drew appropriate and inventive conclusions supported by evidence. Ideas are richly supported with accurate details that develop the main point. The author's voice is evident.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	Though he says he makes arguments at the end, it seem a bit late. The arguments should be more present from the start. The voice is mostly one of report, but the prose is strong and clear.
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	This thesis seem more of a summary or report to me.
5. Conclusion effectively restates the argument. It summarizes the main findings and follows logically from the analysis presented.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The conclusion is too short and feels a bit exhausted instead of pushing into the future of the party as the author claims to do.
6. The text is organized in a logical manner. It flows naturally and is easy to follow. Transitions, summaries and conclusions exist as appropriate. The author uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The quotations and references page are a bit of a mess.

7. The language use is precise. The student makes proficient use of language in a way that is appropriate for the discipline and/or genre in which the student is writing.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
8. The thesis meets the general requirements (formatting, chapters, length, division into sections, etc.). References are cited properly within the text and a complete reference list is provided.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See above

Final Comments & Questions

The author is to be congratulated on his strong, clear prose and his hard work. I feel that the thesis succeeds on its own terms except for the format which is badly off when it comes to quotations and the references page. It will be up to the committee to decide the scope of the punishment for the lack of care taken with these format issues. The thesis serves well on the level of report but never lives up to the academic requirements of critical thinking. There is some speculation as to the political future of the liberal democrats and this is much appreciated, but for the reader this comes too little, too late. In the defense, the author should think about how he could have created a more argumentative thesis and how to bring a more critical eye to the policies of this historic party. One never really gets the sense of whether the author supports the socialist policy advocated by the party in question.

Supervisor/ Reviewer: Brad Vice, Ph.D.

Date: 19.08.2013

Signature:

