

HOLISTIC SCORING:

How well does the paper work as a whole?

One does not examine individual aspects of a paper in this approach, but rather the “overall impression—the synergistic effect—that is created by the elements working together within the piece” (Wolcott 71).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SCORING HOLISTICALLY

1. Read quickly; score immediately.
2. Don't reread.
3. Read the entire paper.
4. Read for what has been done well, not poorly.
5. Take everything into account (organization, spelling, style, etc.).
6. Rank papers against others in the group.

TIPS FOR FACULTY: EVALUATING PAPERS HOLISTICALLY

1. Determine the elements of writing you look for in papers.
2. Divide a set of papers into piles according to the quality of these writing elements.
3. Describe on a continuum of four to six points how these points are shown in papers from each pile from strongest to weakest.
4. Ask your students to evaluate their own papers against these criteria.