

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Jiřina Jarořov

Title: Nature, Abraham Lincoln and the American Civil War

Length: 31

Text Length: 35

Assessment Criteria	Scale	Comments
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	The introduction consists mostly of rhetorical questions that fail to unify the thesis with a comprehensive 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	
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	
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	While I would not call the description simplistic, it is a description nonetheless.
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	
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	

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	Minors errors with inverted quotation marks and titles and the like.

Final Comments & Questions

This thesis is excellently written and researched. The author is to be congratulated on her hard work and depth of knowledge. There are minor inconsistencies with the References page in terms of title punctuation. Also, I find the introduction insufficiently revised as it is still composed of largely rhetorical questions, rather than an argumentative thesis which I communicated to the author would be necessary for a truly excellent diploma. The conclusion seemed a bit better, but I think this impression was enhanced by the fact that it followed the section which discussed popular culture. Thus, evidence for Lincoln being an "icon" was more or less obvious. Historical thesis works are notoriously hard to make argumentative as the authors feel it is more or less their function to describe historical events and personalities. But this fall short of the mark when it comes to academic writing. There are plenty of historians who can argue that Lincoln was a violator of the constitution and even a war criminal. In the defense, I will ask the author to compare her vision of Lincoln with more contentious voices and more or less argue that he was a "good" president, if not the greatest American president.

Suggested mark 1 or 2.

Supervisor/Reviewer: Brad Vice, Ph.D.

Date: 18.05.2015

Signature:

