

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Věra Hrušková

Title: The black slaves in the antebellum period

Length: 39 pages

Text Length: 38 pages

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	<i>The introduction is a crossover between an introduction to the thesis and its background section. It seems to mention issues, for example info mentioned on p.2, that do not fit the introduction.</i>
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	<i>The author shows familiarity with the time period and issues described in the thesis. She provides a lot of background information on the slavery and the lifestyle of black people; however, the individual sections of the work come across as unrelated sections. The author fails to bring the individual topics together at the end of the thesis. I suppose this is caused by a very broad focus of the thesis. If the author had had a more narrow focus, the whole thesis would have had a clearer direction and resulted in an apparent outcome.</i>
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 NA (not applicable)	<i>This criterion is not relevant to this thesis. The thesis is an overview of historical events rather than their analysis.</i>
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	<i>This couldn't be achieved for the author states herself to demonstrate the life of enslaved people rather than arguing a certain viewpoint of the issues.</i>
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	<i>The author's referencing is problematic. She successfully integrates direct quotes into her text; however, a lot of information is presented without references being included. This even appears in the introduction where some facts are outlined but no source of information provided.</i>

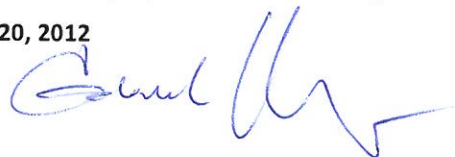
Final Comments & Questions

Ms. Hrušková presents a historical overview of the life of slaves in United States rather than argues a selected issue associated with the topic of slavery and black people. The work is very factual and recounts selected aspects of life in a detailed manner. Ms. Hrušková fails to properly include references in the thesis and a lot of facts are given without references being provided. However, the author's prose is very advanced and the thesis is well written. If it had been accompanied with a critical discussion, the thesis would have a potential to stand out as a sophisticated piece of work. The way it is presented here, the thesis comes across as a description of events rather than their analysis.

Supervisor/Reviewer: **Mgr. Gabriela Klečková, Ph.D.**

Date: **May 20, 2012**

Signature:



Západočeská univerzita v Plzni
Fakulta pedagogická
katedra anglického jazyka