

Criterio de evaluación para los trabajos escritos

Formato y presentación:

Expectations: professional appearance; pages are held together with staple or clip; word processed and formatted according to guidelines in syllabus.

Lenguaje

Expectation: that you use the grammar learned in 201-202 effectively and correctly.

Ortografía – Spelling and accent marks

Expectations: all words are spelled correctly with no misplaced or missing accent marks. It is recommended that you run the spell check as your final step before printing the paper.

Concordancia – Agreement

Types of agreement: noun-adjective agreement, subject-verb agreement, and pronoun agreement. **Examples** of common errors: “La opinión es correcto (La opinión es *correcta*)”; “Ellos quiere ir al cine (Ellos *quieren* ir al cine)”; “¿Entiendes la lectura? Sí lo entiendo (Sí *la* entiendo).” **Observation:** It is difficult for non-native speakers to not make errors in agreement when speaking, but these types of errors are completely within your control when writing. If you take the time to find them and correct them in your writing, you will be less likely to make them in your speaking. **Pages to review** in *Conversación y Repaso*: Nouns and Articles: 5; Adjectives: 15

Artículos y preposiciones – Articles and prepositions

There are no shortcuts to mastering the use of articles and prepositions. With memorization, practice, and careful listening and reading you will develop a command of them. An incorrect preposition can produce enormous confusion, as in the following **example** in English: “She is waiting on the car (She is waiting *in* the car).” **Pages to review** in *Conversación y Repaso*: Nouns and Articles: 5; Review and uses of the definite article: 279; Review and uses of the indefinite article: 282; The personal a: 19; Prepositions: 171-178; Verbs followed by prepositions: 243

Pronombres – Pronouns

It is possible to write a paper using few if any pronouns. **Expectations:** that you do not avoid using pronouns and that you use them correctly. **Examples** of common errors: “Ella se sigue a mí” (“Ella *me* sigue a mí”); “Nosotros le lo damos” (“Nosotros *se lo* damos”). **Pages to review** in *Conversación y Repaso*: Subject Pronouns: 7; The reflexive verbs and pronouns: 44; Direct object pronouns: 42; Indirect object pronouns: 64; Double object pronouns: 66; Possessive adjectives and pronouns: 93; Relative pronouns: 124; Prepositional pronouns: 179; Demonstrative adjectives and pronouns: 200; The reciprocal construction: 202; The reflexive for unplanned occurrences: 203

Verb Modes – Tenses

There are fourteen verb tenses in Spanish. Knowing them requires periodic review, practice, and active listening/reading. Mastering the subjunctive is perhaps the biggest challenge for non-native speakers, but if you can do it then you can be confident that you are well on your way to gaining fluency/proficiency in the language. **Pages to review** in *Conversación y Repaso*: Present Indicative: 8-15; Imperfect and Preterite: 8-15; Future and Conditional: 60-64; Gustar, Ser, Estar: 67-72; Progressive: 85; Perfect Tenses: 88-92; Tener, Deber, Hacer, Haber: 98-100, 284; Subjuntivo: 115-119, 142-145, 149, 167-170, 197, 217, 241-242; Commands: 120; Passive Voice: 259-264

Tiempos Verbales – Past, present, future

This entails using the correct tenses for the established time frame of your written narrative. Active listening and reading can help you develop a sensibility for the correct choice of verb tense. **Examples** of common errors: “Nosotros queríamos que tú vengas” (“Nosotros queríamos que tú vinieras”); “Yo creí que vas a llegar temprano” (“Yo creí que *ibas* a llegar temprano”). **Pages to review** in *Conversación y Repaso*: Sequence of tenses: 146

Léxico y Sintaxis – Word choice and syntax (sentence structure)

Anything between brackets ([...]) needs to be rewritten, as the errors, whether numerous or few, severely impede understanding. *Wordreference.com* is a good resource for lexical questions (i.e. apoyar vs. soportar, conocer vs. saber, darse cuenta vs. realizar, asistir vs. atender). **Pages to review:** Conjunctions 265; Expressions and Comparisons: 96, 151, 221-229

Variedad Verbal y Lingüística – Refers to the range of verb tenses and vocabulary used

Expectations: that you avoid relying on the verb tenses and words (including verbs) with which you are comfortable. It is impossible to discuss any topic of some complexity without using the subjunctive or at least one compound verb form. Also, over reliance on a small range of common verbs (*ser, decir, tener*) diminishes the quality of your writing. Avoid using especially *ser* when possible; look for active verbs. Spanish is a much more verbal language than English. **Take for example:** “*As a result* we stayed at home,” which in Spanish is “*Resulta que* nos quedamos en casa.” Or, “We had dinner,” which in Spanish is simply “*Cenamos.*” **The challenge before you:** to use as many of the 14 Spanish verb tenses taught in 201-202 as possible in your writing and to avoid repeating words or phrases (look for synonyms or other ways to convey your idea).

Contenido

Writing is about communicating ideas that are worth sharing. Therefore take the time to think through what you want to say before you sit down and compose the paper. Writing is fun and energizing when you have something brilliant to share. If it is worth sharing, then it is worth the extra effort to say it with clarity and concision. Effective communication just doesn't happen: it takes careful planning, organization, reasoning, and above all else, *research*. Your sustained use of a dictionary and a thesaurus will make all the difference.

El ensayo se sirve de evidencia objetiva y relevante – objective and relevant evidence

Persuasive arguments are built on a foundation of accurate information and rational premises. Without accurate information and rational premises, your argument will fall apart. For the purposes of this class, any interpretation that you formulate and defend with regard to the readings or viewings will be well received provided that the interpretation is supported with objective and relevant evidence.

El ensayo es analítico – *The essay is analytical*

The essay analyzes a concrete cultural artifact. The analysis is logically structured and cohesive.

El ensayo demuestra discernimiento – *The essay demonstrates discernment*

The analysis explains something about the cultural artifact that is not immediately apparent or easily seen. Discernment will often entail the use of inference or deductive reasoning.

El ensayo es persuasivo – *The essay is persuasive*

The essay offers an original take on the cultural artifact in question. The premises and process of reasoning support the argumentative position put forth in a convincing manner.