

# Rubric for grading thesis drafts

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## I. Overall Chapter Content (20%)

Does the chapter cover everything it should? (See “Typical Content of a Senior Thesis” below)

## II. Structure of the ideas (20%)

Are the proper subdivision in place (sections, subsections, paragraphs or topic sentences), and is the flow of ideas clear

## III. Completeness (20%)

All drafts should cover 100% of content and structure, but initial drafts may be only roughed in according to the schedule below. “Polished” text is text that will be graded for quality of writing, although it will presumably still be revised throughout the process. Polished text should have the appropriate equations included, while rough text may not.

- First draft: At least half of the content should be full text, but the other half of the content can be left as topic sentences that are complete enough to understand flow. Half of the full text (about a quarter of the chapter’s content) should be polished text. Non-polished paragraphs in the full text should be indicated as [Rough], and topic sentences indicated by [Rough - More]. Figures/tables/graphs need not be in place, but should be indicated via a sentence in a caption.
- Second draft: All of the content should be full text, and half of the paragraphs should be polished text. Non-polished paragraphs in the full text should be indicated as [Rough]. Figures/tables/graphs should be mostly in place, but some may still be indicated by captions.
- Third draft: All of the content should be full text, and should be polished. Text to be graded will be selected from anywhere in the chapter. All figures/tables/graphs should be in place.

## IV. Polished Writing (40%)

Selected excerpts of the polished text will be graded for spelling, grammar, style, clarity, flow, and transitions. Physics content per se will only be evaluated, to the extent that it impacts the clarity of writing. Particular attention will be paid to rules covered in quizzes and to the advice given in the lecture on revising prose with its emphasis on an active, direct style that avoids lard.