

**GENERAL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR ARTICLES SUBMITTED TO  
*CONFLICT, JUSTICE AND DECOLONIZATION***

<b>Acceptance/ Rejection</b>	<b>Relevance of Content</b>	<b>Use of Source Material</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Cohesion &amp; Coherence</b>	<b>Language Accuracy</b>	<b>Presentation &amp; Mechanical Accuracy</b>
<b>Accept without change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appears well focussed and relevant to the themes of <i>Conflict, Justice and Decolonization</i>;</li> <li>- Thorough coverage of the topic under question;</li> <li>- Well supported arguments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sources thoroughly incorporated;</li> <li>- Appropriate citation &amp; bibliography following APA style;</li> <li>- No plagiarism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outline of main ideas easily recognisable to readers;</li> <li>- Sections and paragraphs clearly marked;</li> <li>- Thorough introduction and conclusion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cohesive with discourse markers appropriately used;</li> <li>- Forms a coherent whole;</li> <li>- Close, intelligible relationship between sentences;</li> <li>- Smooth flow of text.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Very few and neglectible language errors;</li> <li>- Vocabulary, style and register appropriate to the topic and intended readers (mostly graduate students in Humanities and Social Sciences)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adheres to assigned length;</li> <li>- Clear presentation of both text and any tables and figures; proper format (APA);</li> <li>- Virtually no errors of punctuation, spelling or capitalisation.</li> </ul>
<b>Accept with minor changes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appears focussed and relevant to the themes of <i>Conflict, Justice and Decolonization</i>;</li> <li>- Thorough coverage of the topic under question with only minor aspects missing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Relatively good incorporation of references with only minor inconsistencies in citation and bibliographical information;</li> <li>- No plagiarism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minor incompleteness or lack of clarity;</li> <li>- Sections and paragraphs generally divided well;</li> <li>- Introduction and conclusion well connected to body.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Only minor inconsistencies in the use of cohesive and discourse markers, which do not affect overall coherence;</li> <li>- Smooth flow of text, but possible overuse of certain discourse markers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Without major proportion of inappropriate language use;</li> <li>- Vocabulary, style and register mostly appropriate to the topic and intended readers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adheres to assigned length;</li> <li>- Relatively clear presentation and format, but some errors in mechanical accuracy.</li> </ul>
<b>Accept with major changes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appears relevant to <i>Conflict, Justice and Decolonization</i>;</li> <li>- Some problems with substantiating arguments.</li> <li>- Possibly too</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adequate reference to source material, although some minor errors in evidence;</li> <li>- No plagiarism though</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some incompleteness or lack of clarity in the whole;</li> <li>- Sections and paragraphs not well divided</li> <li>- Introduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Relationship between sentences may occasionally lack smoothness;</li> <li>- Some misuse of cohesive and discourse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some problems e.g. in the level of formality and register;</li> <li>- Consistent errors in certain areas of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quite clear presentation, with occasional inconsistencies in format and other mechanics of writing, which</li> </ul>

	general or too detailed in places.	possible overuse of direct quotations and citation; - Bibliography may be incomplete or inadequate in minor ways.	and conclusion not well connected to the main body.	markers, which affects flow of text.	grammar, which rarely impedes comprehension.	rarely impedes comprehension.
<b>Reject</b>	- No relevance to <i>Conflict, Justice, Decolonization</i> ; - Needs elaboration; - No clear evidence of substantiation	- Very inadequate citation or lacking citation entirely; - Problems with paraphrasing; - Inadequate bibliography; - Limited bibliography with several types of error. - Plagiarism	- Poor organization and division between sections, which makes comprehension of the whole very difficult.	- Unsatisfactory cohesion makes comprehension very difficult; appears incoherent and lacking in logical flow	-Inappropriate style and register and frequent grammatical errors make comprehension very difficult.	- Very inconsistent in presentation and format; - Frequent errors in punctuation and spelling; - Difficult to understand.

This set of criteria is adapted from the GENERAL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA for academic writing assignments in International Master's Programmes at the University of Jyväskylä, which in turn is mainly based on the book *Study Skills for Academic Writing* written by Trzeciak, John & Mackay (1995).