

Theoretical Anchor Paper				
Criteria	Exemplary (90–100%)	Proficient (80–89%)	Developing (70–79%)	Needs Improvement (<70%)
Critical Analysis & Theoretical Engagement (40 Points)	36–40 Points	32–35.5 Points	28–31.5 Points	0–27.5 Points
	Deeply and critically engages with theoretical and methodological frameworks regarding Black lives across global and local contexts. Analyzes rather than summarizes.	Engages with the frameworks and contexts adequately. Shows solid analysis, though may occasionally drift into summary or lack deeper global/local connections.	Relies too heavily on personal journaling or summary. Analysis of theoretical frameworks or global/local contexts is surface-level or poorly connected.	Reads entirely as a summary or journal entry. Fails to engage with the theoretical/methodological frameworks or the specific contexts of Black lives.
Evidence & Text-Based Anchoring (30 Points)	27–30 Points	24–26.5 Points	21–23.5 Points	0–20.5 Points
	Seamlessly integrates specific, highly relevant evidence from the week's assigned readings. Quotes and concepts are used strategically to anchor the argument.	Effectively uses course readings for evidence, though text integration could be smoother or the selection of quotes could be more directly relevant to the core argument.	Sparse use of course readings. Relies on generalizations rather than specific textual evidence, or misinterprets the assigned authors' core arguments.	Does not use the assigned course readings, relies heavily on outside/unassigned sources, or completely lacks evidence.
Organization, Structure, & Clarity (15 Points)	13.5–15 Points	12–13 Points	10.5–11.5 Points	0–10 Points
	Exceptional structural flow. Paragraphs are focused, transitions are logical, and the academic tone is maintained perfectly throughout the paper.	Well-organized overall. The argument is easy to follow, though some transitions may be clunky or the academic tone slips occasionally.	Lacks a clear structural progression. Paragraphs may be disconnected, or the tone is overly conversational and inappropriate for a theoretical paper.	Disorganized to the point of impeding understanding. Lacks clear paragraphs, central focus, or a coherent progression of ideas.
Formatting & APA Mechanics (15 Points)	13.5–15 Points	12–13 Points	10.5–11.5 Points	0–10 Points
	Flawlessly meets all formatting requirements: exactly 2-4 full pages, 12pt Times New Roman, double-spaced. APA citations and references are perfect.	Meets length and font requirements but contains 1-2 minor APA formatting or citation errors.	Falls slightly short of the 2-page minimum. Contains several APA citation errors, or uses the wrong font/spacing configurations.	Significantly under the page limit (e.g., 1 page). Major formatting issues; complete lack of APA citations or failure to follow instructions.