Idea Paper Grading Scales
Interpersonal Relationships

The goal of this assignment is for you to apply course concepts to anything you experience outside of class (e.g., your own interactions and observations, hypothetical examples, events in literature or movies). Requirements include (1) a summary of a concept from a chapter outline – something I've covered in class or something from our textbook; and (2) a description/reflection of your own observations and experiences (or hypothetical examples) as they relate to the concept.

1. Does your paper include a one page summary of your selected course concept(s)? Are the concepts you select from one of our chapter outlines? Does the summary focus on whatever specific concept will be the topic of your second page (or is the summary overly broad)? Is the summary accurate and clearly expressed?

   needs improvement 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 excellent

2. Does your paper include one page of your own ideas and examples that relate to the content you summarized on your first page? Do you clearly link your (real or hypothetical) examples to course concepts? Do you avoid summarizing more content on the second page and instead focus on your own examples or ideas? Do your examples accurately relate to the concepts?

   needs improvement 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 excellent

3. Do you cite your source (the textbook – not the instructor or your notes) once per paragraph of summary? Is there a reference page? Are sources always cited, as appropriate? Do you avoid including authors’ first names or titles of sources in your text and instead refer to sources only by authors’ last name(s) and year? If there are three or more authors, do you use the et al. style citation for the second and any subsequent text citations? Does the reference page include the textbook that is the one required source (and does it include any other sources that were used)? Are citations of sources in the text and the Reference page in APA style (see www.people.vcu.edu/~jldavis/apa)? Do you avoid quoting material and instead paraphrase? Are there spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors? Is any wording unclear or awkward? Are there any typos? Are paragraphs well structured? Are transitional sentences and words used? Is the paper generally polished?

   needs improvement 0 1 2 3 4 5 excellent

Grade (out of 25): ______

Reminder about policy for plagiarism:
Any form of cheating or plagiarism will be dealt with severely. When you write papers, you should (a) use your own words to express your own ideas; (b) use your own words to express someone else’s ideas and cite the source; and/or (c) put quotes around someone else’s words and cite the source. If you violate any of these rules, your work will be submitted to the Academic Integrity Office (Honor Council). Possible sanctions include receiving a zero on the assignment or failing the class, depending on the severity of the infraction. I encourage you to ask for help before turning in a paper (the Writing Center would be a good resource, www.vcu.edu/uc/writingcenter).