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STS.010 Neuroscience and Society  
Fall 2008

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For the writing assignments in this class, we are not looking for one correct answer. Many different answers, each completely incompatible with the other, could be good answers. You will be graded on the basis of how well you address the questions asked, how well you present a clear, well-structured, and defended analysis (see grading criteria, below).

Papers should have introductions that outline the importance of the topic, bodies that lay out the evidence in a clear and constructive way, and conclusions that tie everything together. Every sentence should be clear, every paragraph clear, and the paragraphs should follow logically from one to the next in service of discussion and analysis. Always proofread.

*Citations* ~ Please cite all sources (course readings, lectures, other sources if any). If you have any questions, consult the MIT Writing Center website (<http://web.mit.edu/writing>). You may pick your own style of citations – just be accurate, consistent, and complete.

*Late Papers* ~ The TAs will follow standard procedure in dealing with late papers—a third of a letter grade comes off for every day the paper is late.

*Plagiarism* ~ All your writing must be your own. Anything quoted verbatim must appear within “ ” quotation marks and be accompanied by a footnote that identifies its source. You may not paraphrase a person’s writing without making it explicit that you are doing so. Changing the words does not make it your writing. Whenever another person’s insights or ideas appear in your paper you must credit that person. If you are in any doubt about whether something you are writing amounts to plagiarism, talk about it with your TA before you hand in your paper.

We will return papers approximately one week after they are due.

### GRADING CRITERIA

- A : Excellent writing and organization, well-defended analysis, critical use of concepts from class
- B : Good writing, flow of paragraphs, good analysis with evidence, use of concepts from class
- C : Good grammar, good analysis, good response to the question asked

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 Louise Harrison Lepera is the writing advisor for this course. You are encouraged to contact her and set up an appointment to discuss any of your papers.

The **Writing and Communication Center** offers MIT students **free professional** advice from published writers about oral presentations and about all types of academic, creative, and professional writing. See <http://web.mit.edu/writing> for more information.