James Madison University's Ethical Reasoning Rubric

Insufficient 0	Marginal 1	Good 2	Excellent 3	Extraordinary 4	Score
A. Ethical Situation: Identifying ethical issue in its context					
No reference to decision option(s).	Implicit reference to decision options AND/OR little context given regarding decision option(s).	Explicit but unorganized reference to decision option(s) and context.	Clear description of decision option(s) and context.	Meets criteria for *Excellent* AND… • Context treated with nuance • Builds tension with organization and word choice.	
B. Key Question Reference: Mentioning the 8 KQs or equivalent terms					
Reference to zero or only one key question.	Vague references to key questions OR only <u>two</u> key questions referenced.	References <u>four</u> key questions.	References <u>six</u> key questions.	References all <u>eight</u> key questions.	
C. Key Question Applicability: Describing which of the 8 KQs are applicable or not applicable to the situation and why					
No rationale provided for the applicability or inapplicability of any KQs to the ethical situation.	Provides a rationale for the applicability or inapplicability of <u>two</u> key questions to the ethical situation.	Provides a rationale for the applicability or inapplicability of <u>four</u> key questions to the ethical situation.	Provides a rationale for the applicability or inapplicability of <u>six</u> key questions to the ethical situation.	For all <u>eight</u> questions provides a rationale for its applicability or inapplicability to the ethical situation.	
SPECIAL NOTE: If author identifies fewer than three applicable KQs, then Criteria "D" and "E" can be scored no higher than (1) "Marginal"					
D. Ethical Reasoning: Analyzing individual KQs					
No attempt to analyze any <u>of the referenced</u> key questions.	Analysis attempted using two or more key questions. Typically <u>incorrect</u> ascription of the key questions to the ethical situation. Account is <u>unclear, disorganized, or inaccurate.</u>	Analysis attempted using three or more key questions. <u>Basically accurate</u> ascription of the key questions to the ethical situation. Account is <u>unclear</u> or <u>disorganized.</u>	Analysis attempted using three or more key questions. <u>Accurate</u> ascription of the key questions to the ethical situation. Account is <u>clear</u> and <u>organized</u>.	Meets criteria for *Excellent* AND… Nuanced treatment of key questions, for example: • elucidates subtle distinctions • uses analogies or metaphors • considers different issues within same key question.	
SPECIAL NOTE: If Criterion "D" is scored a 0 or 1 then Criterion "E" can be scored no higher than (1) "Marginal"					
E. Ethical Reasoning: Weighing the relevant factors and deciding					
No judgment is presented OR judgment presented with no rationale.	Uses products of the analysis and provides some weighing to make a decision. Account is <u>unclear, disorganized, or inaccurate.</u>	Conveys weighing approach using analysis products. Provides an <u>intelligible</u> basis for judgment.	Meets criteria for *Good* AND…. Logically terminates in decision that will be reached.	Meets criteria for *Excellent* AND… Products of analysis weighed to make judgment <u>compelling.</u>	