

Grading feedback for the budgeting assignment.

The grades were based on your ability to professionally communicate your introductory accounting experience in a comprehensive, clear, and concise manner. There are four separate grades on each document. There is a grade for professionalism above the word “professionally”, a grade for comprehensiveness near the word “comprehensive”, and so on. The final grade was an average of these individual grades.

I have provided comments on most of the papers to help you understand the grades assigned. I understand that the comments provided might not give a thorough explanation of your grade. So, below I have provided some broad observations which can serve as a guide when preparing for the budgeting assignment.

Professional: I reduced the grades for professionalism if the answer contained obvious errors such as repeating words in a sentence. For example, “Jack and Jill went went up a hill”. These kinds of errors indicate that the answer was not reviewed before turning it in. Professional documents are not submitted before they are reviewed by the preparer.

Professionalism is also expressed in the tone of the writing. Many of the papers graded used descriptions such as “sweet”, “awesome”, and “really great”. I don’t feel that these adjectives would be used in a professional document.

Finally, Professionalism grades were decreased if the answer was not well organized. Separating main thoughts into paragraphs and avoiding run-on sentences can be helpful in making your document look professional.

Comprehensive: Failure to focus on “the experience” was the main reason for reducing the comprehensiveness grade. Many answers amounted to a review of the introductory accounting instructor. Some focused on the grade received in the course, and some focused on the course structure. A review of these items can be helpful if they are related to why you evaluated your experience as you did, but a description of one of these elements on its own tells me little about your overall experience.

The most frequent comment that I made was, “why?” Broad statements such as, “My accounting class was great” are useful if details are provided which are able to explain why you arrived at the opinion. A collection of broad statements does little to paint a picture or tell the story of your experience. However, details of your experience allow me to imagine what it was like. Broad statements are good if used sparingly. One page only has room for one or two broad statements if sufficient detail is provided to back those statements up.

Clear: Clear has a lot to do with organization. Things tend to be clearer when they are organized and focused. Sentences can read like a logical flow of thoughts, or they can read more like a collection of more random thoughts. A logical flow of thoughts tends to be clearer and the grade for “clear” is an attempt to assess this flow.

Introductions, summaries, conclusions, and separating thoughts into paragraphs are all useful for clearing up thoughts.

Concise: A concise answer is characterized by a lack of unnecessary information. In this case, any portion of your answer that is not ultimately tied into your intro accounting experience is unnecessary.