

C To earn a “C,” a student must

- Respond to the constraints of the assignment.
- Focus on the topic.
- Provide a clear thesis.
- Maintain a tone appropriate for a scholarly audience.
- Order essay logically, from sentence to sentence, paragraph to paragraph, idea to idea.
- Provide sufficient evidence and detail throughout the essay.
- Have sufficient control of standard written English and MLA guidelines such that errors, including any in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and formatting, if present, do not cause serious confusion and/or distraction.
- Provide adequate, reliable, and relevant secondary documentation, where applicable.
- Demonstrate an understanding of context and purpose in relating secondary sources to paper’s claims/ideas.
- Exhibit nearly error-free incorporation of documentation into the body of the essay.

B To earn a “B,” a student must meet the requirements for a “C” essay plus

- Provide a well-framed and insightful thesis.
- Recognize complexities and show evidence of serious consideration of the topic.
- Support most points with appropriate, well-analyzed examples and intelligent arguments.
- Show logical development and organization throughout.
- Offer writing that is relatively free of grammatical and technical errors.
- Provide substantive, relevant documentation, where applicable, in support of most claims.
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of context and purpose in relating secondary sources to paper’s claims/ideas where applicable.
- Exhibit error-free and varied incorporation of documentation into the body of the essay.

A To earn an “A,” a student must meet the requirements for a “B” essay plus:

- Provide a sophisticated thesis that demonstrates independent thinking.
- Support all claims/ideas with appropriate, fully analyzed examples and compelling, insightful arguments.
- Show persuasive logical development and organization throughout.
- Maintain a distinctive voice and consistent viewpoint with an interesting and varied style.
- Provide secondary sources, where applicable, that demonstrate independent research in the field.
- Enter into discussion with secondary sources, so the student is not just proving someone else’s point but developing original ideas in relation to research material.

D A “D” grade results from

- Failing to respond clearly to the assignment, or
- A lack of qualities listed under the minimum requirements for a “C,” or
- Insufficient control of standard written English, resulting in substantial errors that cause confusion or incoherence.

F An “F” grade results from

- Two or more of the faults listed in “D” above.