

Grades
English 110
Professor Joseph Harris

Author	Title	
Criteria	Score	
Project Do you set an ambitious goal for your essay? Do you develop an interesting train of thought in your writing?	√	
Materials Do you make effective use of your own experiences or of the work of others? Do you clearly cite the texts you are discussing?	√	
Voice Is your prose clear and imaginative? Does your writing sound like you?	√	
Editing and Design Have you carefully edited and proofread your prose? Have you thoughtfully designed your document?	√	
Grade	B	
Comments Dear Student, Here are a few comments on your essay. Joe		

- √+ **Excellent**
- √ **Good**
- √- **Weak**
- ∅ **Unacceptable**

How to Read This Form

I draw on the first three criteria (*project, materials, voice*) in determining the baseline grade (*A, B, C, D*) of an essay. Good work (√s) in all three categories usually earns a B, although an essay may still be judged a B with a single √- or √+. Excellent work (two or more √+s) usually merits an A, while weaker work (two or more √-s, one or more ∅s) will only earn a C or D.

To put all this another way: If I find that you've written a thoughtful essay—that you've read the texts you're discussing attentively, worked to develop an idea of your own, and composed and edited your prose with care—then you will likely earn a B. If, in addition, your essay shows some real insight, imagination, or ambition, then you may earn an A. But if your piece strikes me as perfunctory or careless, you will only earn a C or D.

The shaded category (Editing and Design) may provide me with reasons to add a plus (+) or minus (-) to your base grade. But to move from one letter grade to the next (that is, from a C to a B, or a B to an A), you must either develop your project, improve your use of the work of others, or strengthen your voice as a writer.

Good luck!