

Formal Paper Grading Rubric

Competent/Credible/Complete

If you meet these first three standards, you are writing competently and you will earn a grade of "C." (70-79)

1. Presentation and Design

- _____ Uses appropriate Standard English grammar, punctuation, and usage.
- _____ Necessary documentation is present and correct.
- _____ Meets the assignment's requirements for length and/or format.
- _____ Follows the directions for the topic of the assignment.

2. Unity

- _____ Contains a center of gravity, a unifying and controlling purpose, a thesis or claim, which is maintained throughout the paper.
- _____ Organizes writing around a thesis or according to the organizational requirements of the particular assignment.

3. Evidence/Development

- _____ Develops appropriate, logical and relevant supporting details and/or evidence.
- _____ Includes more specific, concrete evidence (or details) than just opinion or abstract, general commentary.

Skillful

If you meet all of the competency standards above, and in addition, achieve coherence and exhibit audience awareness, you are writing skillfully and you will earn a grade of "B." (80-89)

4. Coherence

- _____ Uses words and sentences, rhythm and phrasing, variations and transitions, concreteness and specificity to *reveal and emphasize the relationship* between evidence and thesis.
- _____ Explains how, why, or in what way evidence/details supports the point/claim/thesis/topic/ideas.

5. Audience Awareness

- _____ Demonstrates a sense that the writer knows what s/he's doing and is addressing real people.
- _____ Reflects a respect for the values that influence ethos (e.g., common ground, trustworthiness, careful research)

Distinctive

If you meet all of the competency standards, achieve coherence and exhibit audience awareness, and, in addition, demonstrate a mastery of one or more features of superior writing, you are writing distinctively and you will earn a grade of "A." (90-100)

6. Distinction

- _____ Your writing stands out because of one or more of the following characteristics: complexity, originality, seamless coherence, extraordinary control, sophistication in thought, recognizable voice, compelling purpose, imagination, insight, thoroughness, and/or depth.

Ineffective

If your paper does not meet competency standards, either because you have minor problems in all three competence areas (1-3 above) or major problems in one or two competence areas, you will earn a grade of "D" (60-69) or "F" (<60), and you should schedule a conference with me.