

Essay Grading Criteria

A range (80-100)

- clear development of a specific and challenging thesis
- evidence of a clear and individual response to the topic
- clear ability to expound upon a subject and to see implications as well as ambiguities, qualifications, etc.
- correct and complex sentence structures
- a style that flows easily, that is sophisticated yet unaffected
- proper paragraphing
- no grammar / diction / spelling errors
- proper documentation

B range (70-79)

- clear development of a specific thesis
- reasonably sophisticated ideas
- a style that is not too wordy or vague
- correct (and sometimes complex) sentence structures
- correct punctuation
- proper paragraphing
- relatively few grammar / diction / spelling errors (with these few errors being minor)
- proper documentation

C range (60-69)

- reasonably clear development of a thesis
- adequate development of ideas but the thesis statement may be too vague and / or the analysis relies to some extent on generalizations
- lack of supporting evidence or poor use / misuse of examples
- correct but simple, repetitive sentence structures
- proper paragraphing
- errors demonstrate a misunderstanding of one or more points of basic grammar (e.g. sentence fragments, agreement problems)
- proper documentation

D range (50-59) § inadequacy in one or more areas

Any of the following could result in a "D":

- a vague thesis
- reasonably sound ideas obscured by poor presentation
- unsupported over-generalizations
- summary in the place of analysis
- lack of paragraph unity / coherence / development
- grammar / diction errors that compromise the clarity of sentences
- documentation errors

F range (0-49) essay is basically unreadable

- simplistic ideas
- no individual response to the topic
- incoherent sentences
- poor / non-existent paragraphing
- inadequate documentation