

Student's Name _____ Teacher _____

Project # _____ Special Assignment Requirements: _____

Conference _____

"Enter a pertinent quote here." (Teachers can self-select)

Writing Center _____

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. Unity

- Contains a center of gravity, a unifying and controlling purpose, a thesis or claim, which is maintained throughout the composition.
- Organizes writing around a thesis or according to the organizational requirements of the particular assignment (e.g., summary, narrative, argument, analysis, description, etc.)

2. Evidence/Development

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

3. Presentation and Design

- Follows guidelines for Standard English grammar, punctuation, usage, and documentation.
- Meets your teacher's (or the MLA's) and the First-year Composition program's requirements for length and/or format.

Skillful/Persuasive

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 the evidence/detail provided supports the claim/ point /thesis/topic ideas.
- Incorporates evidence from outside sources smoothly, appropriately, and responsibly.

5. Audience Awareness

- Demonstrates a sense that the writer knows what s/he's doing and is addressing real people.
- Reflects a respect for 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.

Essay Grade _____ +/- Points for special assignment requirements _____ =

Final Grade

Ineffective

If your work 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 your teacher.