English 180 Paper Grading

A An A paper is extraordinary and goes above and beyond the assignment. It tackles the topic in a creative and innovative way. It is entertaining, thoughtful, insightful, and a pleasure to read. It is cleverly and carefully planned; each section is developed logically, arguments are conclusive and convincing. Support (if necessary) is well integrated into the paper and deeply considered. The style is energetic and precise, with varied sentence structure and carefully chosen words. The writer has a clear and strong sense of audience, and the structure of the paper shows complexity and a willingness to take risks. There is evidence of very careful, very thoughtful and in depth revision. An A paper has few, if any, surface errors, none of which impede the clarity or flow of the paper.

B A B paper is above average and more than meets the assignment. It has a clear and well thought out thesis (if applicable) and is well organized. Each paragraph is unified, coherent, and supplies support for the assertions made in the paper. If necessary, documentation is properly done. While the essay may take some risks, it is staying essentially within the assignment. Attention is paid to audience, and some attempts at complexity are made. It falls short of an A paper in one or more of the following ways: the paper is not as interesting or insightful as it could be, there may be weaknesses in organization, its support may not be uniformly conclusive and convincing, the style might not be as energetic or the diction thoughtful. A B paper has very few surface errors, none of which impede the clarity or flow of the paper. This paper shows clear evidence of serious, thoughtful revision.

C A C paper is a paper that meets the assignment. It fulfills the minimum page length and meets the requirements of the assignment. It has a thesis (if applicable) and organization that demonstrates thought on the writer’s part. The style is generally clear, the surface errors minor enough not to seriously inhibit the flow and clarity of the paper. The paragraphs are coherent and the paper is unified and focused on the topic. It may have any of the following problems: not deeply developed, unfocused/too many tangents, thesis (if applicable) too general, evidence not fully presented, lack of attention paid to the opposition, misunderstanding/ignoring audience or improper/incomplete documentation. A C paper will show evidence of some editing, though that editing may be superficial.

U A U paper is a paper that does not meet the requirements of the assignment. It is perhaps too short, is on the wrong topic, does not answer the prompt, does not support arguments, does not complete the assignment, has not thesis (if applicable), no documentation, is unorganized or unintelligible. A U paper shows little to no sign of having been edited, and surface errors are so abundant as to interfere significantly with the flow and clarity of the paper. This paper needs to be rewritten, and possibly re-envisioned. Likely, the student needs to meet with the professor to discuss the paper.

**“Surface errors” include confusing sentences, grammatical/mechanical errors, typos, etc.