General Paper Grading Guidelines

A Papers Should Reflect the Following
  • Critical thinking, depth of knowledge, strong reasoning skills, and strong analysis
  • Excellent structure that includes a strong thesis, clear critical topic sentences that include sub claims, and transitions
  • No issues with focus/ paragraphs and body sections focused on a single sub claim
  • Exceptional development of ideas in paragraphs or body sections
  • No issues with local sentence-level concerns, no major grammar errors, and few or no minor grammar errors.
  • Clear and appropriate word choice, no awkward sentences or phrasing
  • Varied sentence structures
  • Full adherence to the verbal and written assignment guidelines

Any of the Following May Result in a B Paper
  • Critical thinking and strong analysis
  • Good Structure that includes a good thesis, solid critical topic sentences, and transitions
  • No issues with focus/ paragraphs and body sections focused on a single sub claim.
  • Solid development of ideas in paragraphs or body sections
  • Strong command of grammar. Only one or two major grammar errors and few or no minor grammar errors.
  • Clear and appropriate word choice; very few awkward sentences or phrasing
  • Varied sentence structures
  • Full adherence to the verbal and written assignment guidelines

Any of the Following May Result in a C Paper
  • Portions of the paper may reflect critical thinking and/or strong analysis, but those qualities are not sustained throughout the paper.
  • Mostly good structure with minor to somewhat significant flaws
  • Some well developed paragraphs/body sections with some underdeveloped paragraphs and/or body sections
  • Most of the body sections and paragraphs are focused, while some are not.
  • Some grammar issues. No more than three major grammar errors. Some minor grammar errors.
  • Some issues with word choice and/or awkward sentences.
  • Sentence structures are insufficiently varied
  • Full adherence to the verbal and written assignment guidelines

Any of the following May result in a D Paper
  • Little depth of thought or strong analysis or unsustained depth of thought
  • Weak structure
  • Multiple instances of underdeveloped paragraphs and/or body sections
  • Significant lack of focus
  • Weak grammar. Four or Five Major Grammar Errors and too many minor grammar errors
  • Awkward sentences and phrasing. Poor word choice
  • Simple or unvaried sentence structure
  • Fails to fully adhere to the verbal and written assignment guidelines.
Any of the following will result in a F Paper

- Little depth of thought or strong analysis
- Serious structural issues
- Unacceptable paragraph and/or body section development
- Unacceptable lack of focus
- Very poor grammar. More than five major grammar errors. Excessive minor grammar errors
- Awkward sentences and phrasing. Poor word choice
- Simple (unvaried) sentence structure
- Fails to adhere to the verbal or written assignment guidelines

**Major Grammar Issues Include:**
- Comma Splices
- Sentence Fragments
- Run-On Sentences
- Lack of Subject-Verb Agreement
- Modifier Issues
- Some Comma Usage

**Minor Grammar Issues Include:**
- Possession
- Preposition Usage
- Parallelism
- Faulty Predication/Unclear Sentence Structure *
- Passive Voice*
- Extra commas

*Remember that Passive Voice is not inherently wrong. However, in certain disciplines like English, you should use mostly active voice. Too much passive voice will negatively impact your grade.

* Faulty Predication/Unclear Sentence Structure can be a major grammar issue.

*Too many minor grammar errors can also be a major grammar issue.

*While there are several bullets under each grade description, one or a combination of those issues can exist and result in that grade designation.