

Chaffey College English Department

Essay Grading Guidelines

The English Department at Chaffey College allows individual faculty latitude to create their own rubrics, prompts, and/or standards. We do provide these guidelines, detailing what the department generally considers an A, B, C, D, or F essay:

- An A paper (90-100) is excellent in nearly all respects. It shows originality of thought that goes well beyond material presented in class. It is well argued and well organized with a clear, specific, and ambitious thesis. It is well developed with content that is specific, interesting, appropriate, and convincing. It has logical and artful transitions and is marked by stylistic finesse and varied sentence structures. It demonstrates command of mature diction and has few, if any, mechanical, grammatical, spelling, or diction errors.
- A B paper (80-89) is excellent in several respects but may have a less sophisticated thesis, a less distinguished style, some minor lapses in organization and development, some ineffective sentence structures, and some minor mechanical, grammatical, spelling, or diction problems.
- A C paper (70-79) is generally competent, but compared to a B paper, it may have a weaker thesis and less effective style and development. It may contain some lapses in organization, poor or awkward transitions, less varied sentence structures that tend toward choppiness or monotony, significant problems with mechanics, grammar, spelling, and diction.
- A D paper (60-69) is below average and may present a thesis that is too vague or too obvious to be developed effectively. It generally exhibits problems with organization, support, transitions, sentence structures, mechanics, grammar, spelling, and diction that impede understanding.
- An F paper (59 and below) is far below average and may have no clear thesis or central topic. It may display a lack of organization, support, and development. It may contain major and repeated problems with mechanics, grammar, spelling, and diction and may fail to fulfill the assignment or may be unacceptably brief.