

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY WRITING STANDARDS

A. The A paper exhibits originality of thought in stating and developing a central idea. The ideas expressed are clear, logical, and thought provoking. The paper contains the positive qualities of good writing listed below: 1. The paper concentrates on a central idea and reveals a clear and sound over-all organizational plan. 2. Major points in the paper are developed logically and are supported with concrete, specific evidence or details that will arouse the reader's interest. 3. The paper reveals the writer's ability to select effective, appropriate words and phrases to make careful use of transitional devices; to maintain a confident, appropriate tone; and to be free from mechanical errors.

B. The B paper has a clearly stated central idea, logically and adequately developed. The ideas are clear because the paper contains some of the positive qualities of good writing. The paper is comparatively free of errors in the use of English. Although indicating marked competence, the B paper lacks the originality and depth of thought and the mastery of style which characterizes the A paper.

C. The grade of C demonstrates college-level proficiency in writing. The paper has a central idea expressed clearly enough to convey the paper's thesis to the reader. The paper avoids serious errors in the use of English, but lacks the vigor of expression and thoroughness of development found in B or A papers. Organization, coherence and unity of thought must be sustained in the paper as a whole.

D. The grade of D indicates achievement that falls below that of college-level proficiency. Most D papers fail to clearly develop and sustain a central idea, or they may reveal serious and numerous errors in rhetoric and mechanics.

E. The grade of F usually indicates a failure to state and to develop a central idea, to have an organization in the paper that is indicative of an overall plan, to deal with the assigned topic, or to avoid serious (and numerous, perhaps) errors in rhetoric and mechanics.