

**Grades**  
**English 110**  
**Professor Joseph Harris**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	
<b>Criteria</b>		<b>Score</b>
<b>Project</b> Do you set an ambitious goal for your essay? Do you develop an interesting train of thought in your writing?		√
<b>Materials</b> Do you make effective use of your own experiences or of the work of others? Do you clearly cite the texts you are discussing?		√
<b>Voice</b> Is your prose clear and imaginative? Does your writing sound like you?		√
<b>Professionalism</b> Have you carefully edited and proofread your prose? Have you thoughtfully designed your document?		√
<b>Grade</b>		<b>B</b>
<b>Comments</b> Dear Student, Here are some brief comments on your finished piece. ~Joe		

√+ Excellent

√ Good

√- Weak

∅ Unacceptable

## How to Read This Form

I draw on the first three criteria (*Project, Materials, Voice*) in determining the baseline grade (*A, B, C, D*) of an essay. Good work ( $\checkmark$ s) in all three categories usually earns a B, although an essay may still be judged a B with a single  $\checkmark^-$  or  $\checkmark^+$ . Excellent work (two or more  $\checkmark^+$ s) usually merits an A, while weaker work (two or more  $\checkmark^-$ s, one or more  $\emptyset$ s) will only earn a C or D.

To put all this another way: If I find that you've written a thoughtful essay—that you've read the texts you're discussing attentively, worked to develop an idea of your own, and composed and edited your prose with care—then you will likely earn a B. If, in addition, your essay shows some real insight, imagination, or ambition, then you may earn an A. But if your piece strikes me as perfunctory or careless, you will only earn a C or D.

The overall *Professionalism* of your work (the fourth, shaded category on the form) may provide me with reasons to add a plus (+) or minus (−) to your base grade. But to move from one letter grade to the next (that is, from a C to a B, or a B to an A), you must either develop your project, improve your use of the work of others, or strengthen your voice as a writer.

Good luck!