

Grades | English 110 | Spring 2018
Professor Joseph Harris

Author XXXXXXXXXX	Title R1: "Coming Clean"	
Criteria		Score
Project Have you set an ambitious goal for your piece? Have you developed an interesting line of thought in it?		√+
Materials Have you accurately and generously represented the work of others? Have you fully described events and experiences? Have you made effective use of the texts and experiences you discuss?		√+
Voice Is your prose clear and imaginative? Does your writing sound like you?		√+
Professionalism Have you carefully edited and proofread your prose? Have you clearly cited the texts you discuss? Have you thoughtfully designed your document?		√
Grade		A
Comments Dear XXXXXXXXXXXX, This is a lovely piece and a wonderful start to the course. I admire how you diagnose the motives behind both Jane's and the Narrator's plagiarism as a desire to escape the roles they had constructed for themselves—in effect, a desire to get caught—but then suggest that the real learning moment for both comes afterward, when they admit to and come to terms with what they've done. And you write all this in clear, simple, and elegant prose. Well done! Congratulations! ~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 (√s) in all three categories usually earns a B, although an essay may still be judged a B with a single √- or √+. Excellent work (two or more √+s) usually merits an A, while weaker work (two or more √-s, one or more ∅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!