

Grades | English 110 | Spring 2018
Professor Joseph Harris

Author XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	Title R1: "A Personal Grudge"	
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		B+
Comments Dear XXXXXXXXXXXX, I admire how you've basically written a new piece as your revision. That's bold. And I think that the distinctions you draw between Jane and the Narrator make sense. And you write really well. But . . . and I think this has to do with your having essentially started over from scratch, I never become quite sure about what's at stake here, what larger point you want to make about the two novels, plagiarism, and originality. You make your "grudge" against the Narrator clear, but I'm not completely sure why I should care. I really like working with you, XXXXXXXX! You're a perceptive reader and an expressive writer. I'm willing to bet that you're going to do some amazing work in the second half of this semester. ~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!