

Grades | English 110 | Spring 2018
Professor Joseph Harris

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|---|--|--------------|
| Author XXXXXXXX | Title R1: "Blood and Class" | |
| 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 | | C |
| Comments Dear XXXXXX, <p>This is a solid start. You have smart things to say about all three books, and you try to use the idea of "form" to connect your thoughts about them. I'm not sure, though, that you quite succeed yet in doing so. This essay is composed of three very long ¶s (the first is over a page and a half long) that are not very clearly linked together. And the ¶s themselves feel sort of overstuffed with ideas, rather than centered on a particular insight.</p> <p>You're clearly a serious student. You read carefully, and you write clear sentences. I don't think you've quite figured out yet how to put those thoughts and sentences together into a convincing essay, but helping you do that is the aim of this course. I look forward to working with you on your next two pieces!</p> <p>~Joe</p> | | |

- √+ 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!