

**Grades | English 110 | Spring 2018**  
**Professor Joseph Harris**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	
<b>Criteria</b>		<b>Score</b>
<b>Project</b> Have you set an ambitious goal for your piece? Have you developed an interesting line of thought in it?		√
<b>Materials</b> 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?		√
<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 clearly cited the texts you discuss? Have you thoughtfully designed your document?		√
<b>Grade</b>		<b>B</b>
<b>Comments</b> Dear Student, Here are some comments on your work. ~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!