

# COMP 110 – Criteria for Essay Grade – Professor J. Arrowsmith

writer: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a copy of this criteria sheet to the bottom of each essay packet this semester. Download copies from my website.

## A. Mechanics and Grammar

1. Accepted standards of correctness in grammar
2. Correct mechanics, spelling, punctuation, and format

## B. Expression and Usage

1. Appropriate, precise diction
2. Logical and mature development of sentences

## C. Unity and Organization

1. Formulation and limitation of topic or thesis (A deductive structure with the thesis at the beginning is typical)
2. Unity of idea, relevancy of material
3. Development of topic or thesis
4. Clear, self-evident overall structure
5. Coherent paragraphing

## D. Content

1. Support for generalization
2. Factual accuracy
3. Originality of thought
4. Depth and quality of thought

## E. Documentation

*A. Outstanding*

*B. Definitely above average*

*C. Average*

*D. Below Average*

*F. Unsatisfactory*

An outstanding essay stands out because the writer has, with intelligence and originality, thought through what he or she wants to say. The essay develops a point logically in clear, well-constructed paragraphs which follow one another with an ease of transition. Its generalizations are supported by effective use of specific details and examples. It presents an apt and incisive use of words. It is almost entirely free of mechanical and grammatical errors.

- A. For a theme which stands out because the writer has, with intelligence and some degree of originality, thought through what he or she wants to say. It develops a point logically and in clear, well-constructed paragraphs which follow one another with an ease of transition. Its generalizations are supported by effective use of specific details and examples. It is characterized by an apt and incisive use of words. It is almost entirely free of mechanical and grammatical errors.
- B. For a theme which develops an interesting point with good organization and expression. It has most of the virtues of an A theme but is marked more by competence than by originality.
- C. For a theme with a central idea, though its development tends to be vague and generalized. The C theme is often not seriously marred by errors in expression—in fact, it may be quite correctly expressed but trite. It may, on the other hand, be organized and fairly interesting but clumsily expressed.
- D. For a theme with a flimsy thesis and poor organization. Its paragraphs may be sketchy parts of a list or else be long and inchoate. It will most likely have some serious errors in expression.

### Checklist to Submit:

- \_\_\_ Essay (on top)
- \_\_\_ Works Cited
- \_\_\_ Response Page
- \_\_\_ Peer Comments
- \_\_\_ Outline w/Thesis
- \_\_\_ Brainstorming
- \_\_\_ Criteria Sheet