

SNOW COLLEGE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

GRADE STANDARDS FOR ESSAYS

The "A" essay:

- contains an original and stimulating thesis
- provides insight into the subject matter
- develops the thesis idea with abundant, fresh detail
- is written with attention to style; sentences are varied in structure; avoids needless repetition
- uses transitions between paragraphs and between points within paragraphs; the ideas in the essay seem to "flow"; uses // str
- contains details arranged always with a sense of their relative importance and their impact on the reader
- is free of errors in mechanics, spelling, grammar, and syntax
- shows evidence of having been carefully proofread and edited
- contains precise vocabulary; never lapses into vagueness or generalities

The "B" essay:

- contains an original and stimulating thesis
- provides some insight into the subject matter, but fails in some respects to go beyond the obvious
- is written with attention to style, but contains some problems with choppiness, wordiness, or injudicious repetition
- uses transitions between paragraphs and between points within paragraphs
- contains details arranged always with a sense of their relative importance and their impact on the reader
- is relatively free of errors in mechanics, spelling, grammar and syntax
- contains occasional but not distracting errors in vocabulary
- has been proofread and edited but could do with more careful editing as to style

The "C" essay:

- contains a thesis
- substantiates that thesis with supporting details, but lapses into vagueness or generalities too often
- contains few errors in mechanics, spelling, grammar, or syntax, but suffers from choppiness, wordiness, injudicious repetition; is stylistically inferior, though grammatically sound
- sometimes fails to use transitions where they are necessary for coherence; fails to use other devices to add coherence
- contains imprecise vocabulary

The "D" essay:

- contains a thesis which is self-evident
- provides superficial evidence; fails to provide sufficient detail
- is not entirely logical, or contains severe lapses in logic
- contains numerous errors in mechanics, spelling, grammar, syntax
- uses abstract terms where concrete terms are needed
- contains predominantly simple sentences

The "F" essay:

- has no clear thesis or fails to develop its thesis
- contains a large number of a large variety of errors
in spelling, mechanics, grammar, and syntax.
- is written in simple sentences and sentence fragments
exclusively
- may not meet the terms of the assignment