

Grade Guide

A Offers an original and detailed argument that demonstrates that you have thoroughly understood the text(s) you are writing about. The introduction attracts the reader's attention, the ideas presented within the body paragraphs are specific and well-developed, these ideas make the reader think differently about the subject or the text presented, and the conclusion does more than summarize the contents of the paper. Transitions are fluid, ideas are presented directly and do not rely on generalizations, and there is no unnecessary verbiage that obscures meaning. Nothing is cliché in an "A" paper.

B Attests to a good, general understanding of the text(s) you are writing about, and offers a plausible though uninteresting argument that lacks specificity or originality. Ideas need further development, and there are some structural or organizational problems (an introduction that isn't clear, ideas that don't always flow well), but these problems do not make any parts of the paper unreadable. Some vocabulary is used inappropriately. Overall, a solid piece of writing that lacks creativity.

C A lot of the ideas presented in the paper rely on clichés and generalizations to make their point, they aren't well-developed, and/or they attest to a poor understanding of the text(s) you are writing about. There is no argument or the argument presented is totally implausible. There are mistakes about important details in the text(s). Problems with organization, with language use, or with structure make understanding the paper difficult.

D Shows that you didn't understand the paper topic or the text(s) you are writing about. The paper lacks cohesion, ideas are poorly developed, and grammar mistakes make the paper unreadable. Unacceptable work for a student at the university level.

F An offensive, unreadable, or incomplete paper.
