

- D. GRADING STANDARDS: Individual assignments have specific grading criteria, but this list outlines the basic grading standards.
- **On topic.** All papers must clearly follow the assigned topic. Paper which are off topic receive no credit (0).
 - **Mechanics.** All assignments should follow the conventions of standard, written English, with emphases on grammar, spelling, punctuation and capitalization
 - **Structure.** All papers should follow basic essay structure with an effective thesis, appropriate topic sentences, specific details and a short conclusion.
 - **Content.** Papers are evaluated on how effectively ideas are communicated.

D. GRADING POLICY: Final course grades will be calculated using the following percentages:

- 5 Essays @ 10% each 50%
- The work book 20%
- 10 Daily grades @ 1% each 10%
- Grammar exercises 10%
- Final Exam 10%

E. GRADING SCALE:

100-90=A	Superior
89-80=B	Good
79-70=C	Average
69-60=D	Poor
below 60=F	Unacceptable

progress/repeat = PR (The PR grade will reflect satisfactory attendance, class participation, attitude, and effort throughout the semester. Effort in the class is considered to be completion of each assignment and documented use of on-going assistance from the instructor and the Student Assistance Center. Absences cannot exceed the equivalent of one week of class.)

- F. ASSIGNMENTS/MAKE-UP TEST POLICY: All writing assignments must be completed and turned in no later than the assigned due date.
- Major tests should be made up as soon as reasonably possible.
 - Daily grades cannot be made up.
 - Late essays are not accepted. (*LWINA*)

G. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Attend class and be aware of announcements made in class.
2. Inform instructor of late arrival immediately after class.
3. Complete homework early enough to seek help if needed.
4. Be familiar with information in the syllabus, especially attendance, grading, and test policies.
5. Take care of personal needs before and after class.
6. Keep all electronic devices (iPods, cell phones, etc.) in ‘mute’ or ‘off’ mode, and out of sight.
TEXTING DURING CLASS IS ESPECIALLY PROHIBITED.
7. Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment which is conducive to learning. Inappropriate behavior, including but not limited to any form of distracting or offensive attire or behavior in the classroom shall result in being dropped from the class.
8. All written assignments must clearly follow the assigned topic.

- H. ADA STATEMENT: “Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Special Services Coordinator. For more information, visit the Special Services Office in Bldg 8, or call 885-3048, ext. 4675.”

<https://myspc.southplainscollege.edu/ICS/Students/FYI/>

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of English 1301, the student should have written a minimum of five, 500-word essays that reflect the ability:

- ✓ To understand writing as a process: that is, writing conceived as a connected and interactive process which includes pre-writing, writing and revision;
- ✓ To apply the principles of writing as a process and the analysis of audience and purpose to writing assignments;
- ✓ To write an essay that follows the principles of unity and coherence and that is appropriately developed to prove a thesis by means of narration, description, illustration, definition, process analysis, cause and effect, comparison / contrast, classification and division, argumentation, and / or persuasion;
- ✓ To write an essay which follows the conventions of standard written English, the criteria for standard written English being those described in the current required handbook;
- ✓ To understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking in the development of exposition and argument.

Core Objectives addressed:

- **Communications skills**—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Teamwork**—to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- **Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

South Plains College English Department Essay Grading Standards

To evaluate essays, the SPC English department uses a set of uniform grading standards. These standards designate that essays in composition classes should demonstrate at least a basic level of competence in college-level writing and be an appropriate foundation for writing in academic and professional environments.

Grading Criteria for Essays

Essays are evaluated on four bases: unity, support, coherence, and sentence skills. The criteria considered in each base include characteristics essential to the success of an essay. Depending on the assignment, certain bases and criteria may be weighted more than others, and the instructor's assignment may establish additional, more specific criteria.

Base 1: UNITY

- **Thesis.** The thesis statement concisely expresses the main idea of the essay, is appropriate for the assignment, and establishes a sustained and consistent focus for the paper. The thesis may preview the supporting ideas.
- **Body Paragraph Structure.** A body paragraph includes a main idea expressed in a topic sentence strongly tied to the stated thesis, unified supporting details, and clear connections among ideas.
- **Purpose and Audience.** The content and style are tailored for a specific purpose and audience.

Base 2: SUPPORT:

- **Details/Development.** A well-developed essay supports the thesis with ample evidence; uses a variety of specific examples, facts, or other details; and explains the evidence to show its connections to the thesis.
- **Logic.** The essay presents clear, sophisticated, insightful ideas that recognize the complexity of the topic without inaccuracies or errors in reasoning.
- **Use and Documentation of Sources.** If research is used, the essay accurately quotes and paraphrases credible sources, effectively balances source material with the writer's own ideas, and cites and documents correctly according to the required standards of the style (MLA, APA).

Base 3: COHERENCE

- **Organization and Transitions.** The essay demonstrates a logical progression of ideas, provides clear and smooth transitions among ideas, and uses structure appropriate to an academic essay.
- **Title, Introduction, and Conclusion.** An appropriate title is provided. An introduction captures the reader's attention, transitions to the topic by giving context or background information, and presents the thesis statement. A conclusion reemphasizes the essay's thesis and main ideas and provides a sense of closure.

Base 4: SENTENCE SKILLS

- **Use of Standard American English.** The essay is written in Standard American English without major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form), and other errors in grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanics, or point of view.
- **Word Choice and Sentence Variety.** The student writes in a consistent, academic tone, using varied sentence structure and accurate and precise word choice.
- **Format.** The essay is formatted according to the standards set forth in the assignment, in the syllabus, or in the required style guide (MLA, APA).

Assessment of the Grading Criteria

Essays may earn grades ranging from A to F based on the instructor's grading scale. Depending on the assignment, certain criteria may be weighted more than others, and the instructor's assignment may establish additional, more specific criteria. The quality of each of the criteria determines the letter grade. Not every essay will fit a single grade's description completely. Instructors may also include process assignments and drafts in their assessment of the final grade.

“A” Essay (Superior)

To earn an “A,” a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The paper states a clear thesis, all topic sentences strongly support the thesis, and body paragraphs are unified around their topic sentences. The essay conveys a clear purpose and is tailored to a distinctive audience.
3. **Support:** Body paragraphs contain abundant, fresh details and examples that provide specific, concrete, logical evidence. If sources are required, the paper accurately integrates and correctly documents credible source material to add insight, sophistication, and complexity to the paper's ideas.
4. **Coherence:** The organization of the paper is excellent and logical (emphatic order, chronological order, etc.), transitions are sophisticated, and the paper exhibits mastery of basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form) and is virtually free of other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice and sentence variety (simple, compound, complex) are effective and powerful.

“B” Essay (Strong)

To earn a “B,” a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The paper states a clear thesis, all topic sentences directly support the thesis, and body paragraphs display unity. The essay conveys good awareness of purpose and audience.
3. **Support:** Body paragraphs are well-developed with specific details, examples, and sound logic. If sources are required, the paper accurately uses and correctly documents credible source material to supplement its ideas.
4. **Coherence:** The organization of the paper is clear and helpful, transitions are helpful, and the paper exhibits strong basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no more than two major error types (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form) and very few other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice and sentence variety are strong.

“C” Paper (Acceptable)

To earn a “C,” a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** A thesis is stated but may lack a strong claim or be obvious or predictable; topic sentences adequately support the thesis. One error in paragraph unity may occur. The essay's purpose and audience are adequately conveyed.
3. **Support:** Body paragraphs contain relevant details or logical reasons but need more specific examples/evidence. If sources are required, credible outside sources are usually integrated and cited correctly.
4. **Coherence:** Organization of ideas is satisfactory, transitions are logical, and the paper indicates competence in basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no more than four major error types (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form). Some other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors are present but not distracting. Word choice and sentence variety are strong.

“D” Paper (Developing)

To earn a “D,” a paper will exhibit *one or more* of the weaknesses below:

1. The paper only partially fulfills one or more of the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The thesis may announce the topic but no claim, contain more than one idea, or be too vague, too broad, or too narrow. Topic sentences are not tied to the thesis. Two errors in paragraph unity may occur. Essay conveys little awareness of audience or purpose.
3. **Support:** Details are sparse or vague and consist of generalizations, clichés, or repetition. If applicable, sources are insufficient and/or not always integrated or cited correctly.
4. **Coherence:** Organization is attempted but disjointed or confusing; transitions are sparse. The paper indicates awareness of but not competence in basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no more than six major error types (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form). Several other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors distract from the content. Informal word choices occur with little or no variety in sentence type and length.

“F” Paper (Unacceptable)

To earn an “F,” a paper will exhibit *one or more* of the weaknesses below:

1. The paper fails to fulfill one or more of the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The thesis is illogical, incomplete, or missing, so the essay lacks focus on one central idea. Topic sentences are missing, so body paragraphs lack unity. The essay ignores the purpose and audience.
3. **Support:** Details are illogical, irrelevant, or missing from body paragraphs. If sources are required, the paper fails to use sources, does not meet the minimum source requirements, uses source material inaccurately, uses sources that are not credible, fails to document fully or correctly, and/or includes plagiarism.
4. **Coherence:** Organization is incoherent, transitions are missing or illogical, or the paper indicates lack of competence in basic paper components (for example, lack of introduction and/or conclusion, lack of paragraphing).
5. **Sentence Skills:** Seven major error types (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form) occur with numerous other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice is often inaccurate, immature, or inappropriate. Multiple sentence structure/syntax errors make the paper difficult or almost impossible to read. If one type or a combination of types of errors, regardless of whether they are major or minor, seriously affects the readability of a paper, it will receive an “F.”

Acknowledgments:

Illinois Valley Community College: English Department Stylebook
Langan, John. *College Writing Skills with Readings*, 9th edition

TEXAS LICENSE TO CARRY POLICY AT SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE

Individuals possessing a valid Texas License to Carry weapons permit (LTC) will be permitted by state law to carry a concealed handgun into campus buildings. Please be aware of the following information:

- You must possess a License to Carry or the former Concealed Handgun License to lawfully carry on campus.
- Only handguns are permitted.
- You must conceal the firearm. It is still an offense to carry a firearm that is openly displayed on college property.
- The firearm must be on or about your person at all times (concealment in bags and purses is permitted if within your reach) or it must be locked in an approved safe or locked in your vehicle.
- Individuals are not required to disclose if they possess a firearm or an LTC to any person other than a commissioned peace officer. It is **not** recommended that faculty/staff request students disclose information as it pertains to LTC status.
- Accidental display of an appropriately carried firearm, such as the movement of clothing during natural activity, does not warrant panic, but Campus Police may be contacted if there is concern.

Firearms will not be permitted in certain areas, known as exclusionary zones, even with the proper license. Those zones are listed below:

- The Natatorium - This is the only permanent exclusionary zone.
- Certain facilities become exclusionary zones during certain events including:
 - Facilities in which an NCAA or NJCAA sanctioned college or UIL sanctioned high school sporting event is taking place. This does not include facilities in which an intermural sport is taking place.
 - Facilities in which a UIL sanctioned event, including an academic event, is currently taking place.
 - Offices in which a disciplinary hearing is being conducted.
 - Facilities currently utilized as a polling place.
 - Rooms in which a government meeting, or Board of Regents meeting is being conducted.

FALL, 2017

SYLLABUS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
Week 1; Aug. 28 th – 31 st	Introduction to the course Workbook Preview Composition Terms Punctuating Titles
Week 2; Sept. 5 th – 7 th	The Writing Process Description Description essay assignment sheet Seven Deadly Sins of Grammar “Take This Fish and Look at It”
Week 3; Sept. 11 th – 14 th	The First and Second Steps The Third and Fourth Steps Topic Sentence Exercise English Dept. Essay rubric Narration Description Essay Due “The Lottery”
Week 4; Sept. 18 th – 21 st	Types of Introductions Common Thesis Errors Topic Sentence Exercise The Four Steps in Essay Writing - review The Four Bases for evaluating an Essay “The Open Window” - Saki
Week 5; Sept. 26 th – 29 th	Narration Essay Due Compare / Contrast Compare / Contrast essay assignment Specific Examples Exercise CASQ Essay Titles “The Landlady” - Roald Dahl
Week 6; Oct. 2 nd – 5 th	Review for the mid-term exam Proofreading Practice Types of Paragraphs Topic sentence exercise “The Gift of the Magi” – O. Henry

Week 7; Oct. 9 th – 12 th	Cause and Effect Process Mid-term exam
Week 8; Oct. 16 th – 19 th	Definition Topic sentence exercise Proofreading exercise Division – Classification The Importance of Structure “The Door” - E. B. White “Barney” - Will Stanton
Week 9; Oct. 23 rd – 26 th	Compare / Contrast Essay Due ! Argumentation Importance of the persuasive thesis Hyphenated Words “The Bet” -Anton Chekov
Week 10; Oct. 30 th – Nov. 2 nd	Argumentation Fallacies Proofreading practice “The Snows of Kilimanjaro” – Ernest Hemingway
Week 11; Nov. 6 th – 9 th	Writing as a Process of Discovery Developing Your Own Writing Style “The Dream” - O. Henry “The Star” – Arthur C. Clarke
Week 12; Nov. 13 th – 16 th	Persuasion Essay I due! Slang, clichés, jargon & idioms Proofreading practice “The Haunted Boy” -Carson McCullers
Week 13; Nov. 20 th – 21 st	More on Structure Illustration “The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas” - Ursula K. Le Guin
Week 14; Nov. 27 th – 30 th	Workbook is Due Fallacy review Parts of Speech “Please Hold Me the Forgotten Way” H. J. Shepard
Week 15; Dec. 4 th – 7 th	Persuasion Essay II due! Review for the final exam Preview ENGL 1302

“The Intoxicated” - Shirley Jackson

Dec. 11th – 14th

The Final Exam!