Grades|English 110
Professor Joseph Harris

Author	Title	
Criteria		**Score**
Project Have you set an ambitious goal for your piece? Have you developed an interesting line of thought in it?		√
Materials 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?		√
Voice Is your prose clear and imaginative? Does your writing sound like you?		√
Professionalism Have you carefully edited and proofread your prose? Have you clearly cited the texts you discuss? Have you thoughtfully designed your document?		√
Grade		**B**
Comments Dear Student, Here are some brief comments on your finished piece. ~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 (√s) in all three categories usually earns a B, although an essay may still be judged a B with a single √– or √+. Excellent work (two or more √+s) usually merits an A, while weaker work (two or more √–s, one or more ∅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!