**Grading Rubric for English 111**

**The A paper is defined as follows:**

The A paper **significantly exceeds expectations** by completing the assignment in a significantly superior manner. Superior papers are based on original insights, thorough development with specific examples or details, and careful structuring. The topic of the essay is either not a common topic for such an essay and/or the approach is unique.  **All** instructions and goals of the assignment are met in a superior and timely manner. The diction and syntax demonstrate superior competency in the use of the English language.  Effective use of rhetorical strategies ensures the author’s purpose is achieved, and the writing skillfully accommodates the intended specific audience. If present, errors in grammar or mechanics are very few and minor, and these errors **do not** interfere with the meaning of any part of the essay.  A paper that significantly exceeds expectations in all respects but has a large number of mechanical and/or grammatical errors cannot receive an A.

**The B paper is defined as follows:**

The B paper **exceeds expectations** by completing the assignment in an exceptional manner. Such papers exceed expectations for development and organization.  They may also be based on original insights.  **All** instructions and goals of the assignment are met in a superior and timely manner. What distinguishes the B paper from an A paper is that the B paper may not be as skillful in organization, development, diction, or syntax as the A paper. It may not be as insightful as the A paper. Although the B paper may have a few minor errors in grammar or mechanics, these errors do not interfere with the meaning of the paper.  A paper that exceeds expectations in all respects but has a large number of mechanical and/or grammatical errors cannot receive a B.

**The C paper is defined as follows:**

The C paper **meets expectations** for **all** instructions and goals in a timely manner. It completes the assignment with satisfactory organization, development, diction, and syntax. What distinguishes the C paper from a B paper is that the C paper is not as skillful in organization, development, diction, or syntax as the B paper.  It lacks the insightfulness of the B paper.  For example, the approach to the topic in the C paper may be common or overused with little or no new information.  The C paper may have errors in grammar and mechanics which interfere with the meaning(s) of several parts of the essay or which are extensive enough that the credibility of the writer is negatively affected.  A paper free of mechanical or grammatical errors is still a C paper if other aspects such as organization do not exceed expectations.  A paper that meets expectations in all respects but has a large number of mechanical and/or grammatical errors cannot receive a C.

**The D paper is defined as follows:**

The D paper is **below the expectations** of the assignment in one or more important ways.  For example, it may have one or more of the following problems: 1) does not follow **all** of the instructions and goals, 2) is poorly organized, 3) has poor development, 4) has few and/or irrelevant details/examples, 5) has errors in grammar or mechanics that are serious or exceptionally numerous, or 6) has poor content.

**The F paper is defined as follows:**

An F paper **fails to meet expectations** specifically by not completing the instructions or goals for the assignment; for example, if the goal is to write a persuasive paper and the paper is more informative than persuasive, then it did not complete the goal of the assignment. An F paper my not contain the required suources, or the paper may not meet length requirements for the assignment. Also, the paper may not have been done in a timely manner; therefore, it loses all the points for the assignment. In an F paper, the content is poorly developed with few or irrelevant details/examples to the point that the paper has no clear focus. Also, a paper can receive an F if the grammar or mechanics make most of the paper incomprehensible.

**IMPORTANT:  No matter what your final grade average may be, you must turn all of the statewide-required projects, including the three research projects to pass this course—i.e., not turning in one of the projects will result in a failing grade for the course.**

Quick Explanation to Understand a Paper’s Grade

If a paper follows all the instructions, including due dates for all parts of the project, the paper starts out at a C (i.e., 75%).

To go above a C, the paper must go beyond the minimum requirements of the project by demonstrating a mastery of the use of the English language as well as offering a unique approach and/or a profound insight.

To go below a C, the paper does not meet all the qualifications of the instructions, including due dates for all parts of the assignment (e.g., if a first draft was not done by its due date, the final paper receives less than a C).  Also, if poor use of the English language (e.g., wrong word choice, misuse of punctuation, etc.) is so prevalent that parts of the paper are incoherent or ambiguous, the final paper receives less than a C.

**IMPORTANT:  No matter what your final grade average may be, you must turn all of the statewide-required projects, including the three research projects to pass this course—i.e., not turning in one of the projects will result in a failing grade for the course.**