Grading Guidelines

A  A paper receiving an “A” will exhibit the following criteria:
  
  **Attention Grabber** -- The introductory paragraph has a strong hook that is appropriate for the audience.
  
  **Thesis** –The thesis statement provides a clear, strong statement of the author's position on the topic, names the topic of the essay and outlines the main points to be discussed.
  
  **Sequencing** – Arguments and support are provided in a logical order that makes it easy and interesting to follow the author’s train of thought.
  
  **Transitions** -- A variety of thoughtful transitions are used. They clearly show how ideas are connected.
  
  **Audience** - Demonstrates a clear understanding of the potential reader and uses appropriate vocabulary and arguments.
  
  **Grammar and Spelling** – Author makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.
  
  **Sources** – All sources used for quotes, statistics and facts are credible and cited correctly.
  
  **Portfolio Contents/Presentation** – Portfolio is complete and cleanly presented.

B  A paper receiving a “B” will exhibit the following criteria:
  
  **Attention Grabber** -- The introductory paragraph has a hook that is appropriate for the audience.
  
  **Thesis** –The thesis statement provides a clear statement of the author's position on the topic, names the topic of the essay and outlines the main points to be discussed.
  
  **Sequencing** – Arguments and support are provided in fairly logical order that makes it reasonably easy and interesting to follow the author’s train of thought.
  
  **Transitions** -- transitions show how ideas are connected, but there is little variety.
  
  **Audience** - Demonstrates a clear understanding of the potential reader and uses appropriate vocabulary and arguments.
  
  **Grammar and Spelling** – Author makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.
  
  **Sources** – All sources used for quotes, statistics and facts are credible and most are cited correctly.
  
  **Portfolio Contents/Presentation** – Portfolio is mostly complete and cleanly presented.

C  A paper receiving a “C” will exhibit the following criteria:
  
  **Attention Grabber** -- The introductory paragraph has a hook, but it is weak, rambling or inappropriate for the audience...
  
  **Thesis** –The thesis statement is present, but does not make the author’s position clear. It may name the topic of the essay and outline some or all of the main points to be discussed.
  
  **Sequencing** – A few of the support details or arguments are not in an expected or logical order, distracting the reader and making the essay seem confusing.
Transitions – Some transitions work well, but some connections between ideas are fuzzy.

Audience - Demonstrates some understanding of the potential reader and uses arguments appropriate for that audience.

Grammar and Spelling – Author makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.

Sources – Most sources used for quotes, statistics and facts are credible and cited correctly.

Portfolio Contents/Presentation – Portfolio is missing 1-2 documents and may or may not be cleanly presented.

D A paper receiving a “D” will exhibit the following criteria:

Attention Grabber -- The introductory paragraph does not engage the reader and/or is not relevant.

Thesis –The thesis statement does not name the topic and does not preview what will be discussed.

Sequencing – Many of the support details or arguments are not in an expected or logical order, distracting the reader and making the essay seem very confusing.

Transitions – Some transitions work well, but some connections between ideas are fuzzy.

Audience – It is not clear who the author is writing for.

Grammar and Spelling – Author makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.

Portfolio Contents/Presentation – Portfolio is missing 2 or more documents and is not cleanly presented.

If a student does not meet the criteria for “D” work, then he or she will be asked to rewrite their paper.