

GRADING

Teaching Arts Luncheon

Daphne Lamothe

“Rubric” #1

From Julio Alves, Jacobson Center

- **B The B paper is a very solid paper.** It has a strong thesis, well developed through supporting arguments, and arguments are themselves well supported with evidence. The paper shows originality of thought, either in the cleverness of the thesis and/or the selection and exposition of the evidence. Formally, the paper shows a strong sense of introduction and conclusion, paragraph development and transitions. The grammar, punctuation and style are correct, if not elegant, and source material is handled with integrity and properly cited. The B paper may show minor lapses, but is overall a strong paper.
- **A If the B paper pleases, the A paper impresses. The A paper does all that the B paper does, but does one or more things so exceptionally that it makes the reader pause to admire. **Paper writing is a skill, and as such it can be mastered through practice and attentiveness. The A paper’s exceptionality usually comes from experience, from a writer having lived with and studied a topic for a substantial length of time. An instructor can ask leading questions, but it is up to the student to provide the exceptional answers. As a rule, students should not expect As without having first struggled through Bs.****
- **C The C paper shows substantial lapses in content and/or form. For example, even though the paper may look like a B paper, the thesis may be self-evident or banal, or the thesis may be strong but not well developed through supporting arguments. Perhaps the arguments themselves are not well supported with evidence, or maybe the evidence is not well analyzed, leaving the reader unsure of its relevance. Or maybe the problem is that the development of the paper doesn’t propel the argument forward by having one argument build on the previous one. Or maybe the paper shows not the occasional lapse, but serious flaws in grammar, punctuation, and/or style. Or maybe the paper shows too many minor lapses at different levels.**
- **D The D paper has major, insuperable flaws. It falls severely short of the expectations of the assignment. It shows more than lapses in content and form. It shows, in fact, negligence on the part of the writer.**
- The paper that does not handle source material with integrity and/or does not cite sources properly is not even a D paper. It is an **E** paper. It violates the Smith College Honor Code and will lead to disciplinary action.

