

WRITING STANDARDS FOR CLASSES AT JOHNSON COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- A The “A” paper shows originality of thought in stating and developing a central idea. Its ideas are clear, logical, and thought provoking; it contains all the positive qualities of good writing listed below:
1. Concentration on a main purpose, with adequate development and valid specific support.
 2. Careful construction and organization of sentences and paragraphs.
 3. Careful choice of effective words and phrases.
 4. An excellent understanding of the major concepts and ideas relating both to assigned reading and to additional sources or personal experiences.
 5. Mechanical correctness.
- B The “B” paper has a clearly stated central purpose, logically and adequately developed. Its ideas are clear because it contains some of the positive qualities of good writing. It is comparatively free of errors in the use of English. Although indicating competence, the “B” paper lacks the originality of thought and style which characterizes the “A” paper.
- C The average paper will receive a grade of “C.” It has a central idea organized clearly enough to convey its purpose to the reader. It shows adequate knowledge of the concepts and relates the ideas to readings and class discussions. It avoids serious errors in the use of English. It may, in fact, have few correction marks on it, but a “C” paper lacks the vigor of thought and expression which would entitle it to an above-average rating.
- D The grade of “D” indicates below-average achievement in expressing ideas correctly and effectively. Most “D” papers contain serious errors in the use of English and fail to present a central idea or to develop and support it adequately. With more careful proofreading and fuller development, many “D” papers might be worth at least a “C” rating.
- F The grade of “F” usually indicates failure to state or develop a main idea. It may also indicate failure to avoid serious errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.

Instructors are agreed that the following major errors are to be avoided:

- ✚ Comma splice
- ✚ Sentence fragments
- ✚ Misspelling of three or more different common words
- ✚ Lack of subject-verb agreement
- ✚ Lack of antecedent-pronoun agreement
- ✚ Faulty use of tense or person
- ✚ Misplaced or dangling modifiers
- ✚ Lack of parallelism in three or more instances
- ✚ Faulty punctuation in three or more instances

✚ Run-on sentences

As a general rule, all instructors in the communications division will follow this formula in grading papers:

- ✚ A paper containing three of the above errors will receive a grade no better than “C.”
- ✚ A paper containing five of the above errors will receive a grade no better than “D.”
- ✚ A paper containing seven of the above errors will receive a grade of “F.”

All out-of-class papers will be typed, titled, double-spaced, and have inch and one-half margins.

Writing Center