Standards for Evaluating Papers - sample 4

An excellent (A) paper

• demonstrates lively, intelligent, original, and thoughtful understanding of topic
• has adequate thesis that responds to question or topic in full and interesting manner; thesis is supported with evidence from analysis of text, film, discussions, etc.
• is well organized, sticks to the point, and has a real conclusion; each paragraph has a clear topic sentence or other organizing principle; transitions are well made
• contains clear sentences and is largely free of errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage.

An above average (B) paper

• demonstrates intelligent and thoughtful understanding of topic
• contains adequate thesis that responds to question or topic in full and interesting manner; thesis is supported with evidence from analysis of text, film, discussions, etc.
• displays clear organization, with topic sentence or other organizing principle in each paragraph and effective transitions
• contains largely clear sentences but a number of errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage.

An average (C) paper

• demonstrates understanding of topic
• contains thesis but one that is not sufficiently supported by textual evidence and analysis
• displays clear organization but essay does not always stick to the point or make effective transitions
• contains clear sentences but a large number of errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage.

A below average (D) paper

• demonstrates a less than complete understanding of topic
• contains an inadequate thesis that is not sufficiently supported by textual evidence and analysis
• displays lack of organization and does not stick to the point or make effective transitions
• contains unclear sentences resulting from a large number of errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage.

A poor (F) paper

• demonstrates a lack of understanding of the topic
• does not contain a thesis
• lacks organization and does not stick to the point or make effective transitions
• contains largely unclear sentences resulting from an unacceptable number of errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage and also from a lack of neatness and proofreading.