**The Excellent Paper -- "A" (90-100)**

\*combines the best in sentence-level skill with the best in organization and thought

\*uses a variety of sentence patterns, and the sentences are woven together gracefully

\*employs effective introductions, conclusions, and transitions that are clear but never cumbersome

\*avoids cliché and stereotypical arguments

\*anticipates the strongest points of the opposition (where appropriate)

\*free of distracting grammar and usage errors

\*sophisticated vocabulary

\*FLAWLESS MLA STYLE AND CITATIONS

### The Competent Paper -- "B" (80-90)

\*better than average, but not brilliant

\*some skill in handling a variety of sentence patterns

**\***organization is usually quite sound, but sometimes emphasized to the point of clumsiness

\*argument itself is intelligent and not completely predictable

\*considers the opposing argument (where appropriate)

\*generally free of distracting grammatical errors

\*some attempt to use elevated vocabulary

\*NEARLY PERFECT MLA STYLE AND CITATIONS.

### The Average Paper -- "C" (70-80)

\*avoids the major errors of the failing paper without displaying any particular brilliance

\*not much sentence-level imagination or variety of patterns

\*organization may be clumsy or unclear

\*argument is adequate in thought and organization, but stereotyped and frequently phrased in clichés

\*does not consider or adequately refute opposing points of view

\*some distracting grammar errors: may suffer from awkwardness, repetition, and diction errors

\*vocabulary reflects high school rather than college level

\*compromise grade for a paper that shows a mixture of good and bad characteristics

\*SOME ISSUES WITH MLA STYLE AND CITATIONS

### The Inadequate Paper -- "D" (60-70)

\*falls short of college-level thought and quality

\*many distracting grammar and usage errors

\*intellectually vapid argument

\*poor or unclear organization

\*poor vocabulary/diction choices

\*MANY ISSUES WITH MLA STYLE AND CITATIONS

### The Failing Paper -- "F" (0-59)

\*does not seriously engage the assignment (off-topic, tragically weak or missing thesis)

\*lacks any discernible structure or organization

\*many gross grammatical, sentence, and diction errors that distract the reader

\*poor proofreading that demonstrates inadequate effort

\*FATAL ERRORS WITH MLA STYLE AND CITATIONS