GRADING STANDARDS FOR COLLEGE PAPERS
PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

BRIEF GRADE DESCRIPTIONS:

An A paper is clearly superior to papers submitted in college-level courses. The paper demonstrates an exceptional level of innovation, originality, and/or control of language, structure, and content. Given the parameters of the assignment and the time allowed, there are no significant suggestions for improvement.

A B paper is above the average standard for papers submitted in college-level courses. The paper demonstrates a level of innovation, originality, and/or control of language, structure, and content beyond mere competency.

A C paper meets the standard for papers submitted in college-level courses. The paper is acceptable at the college level and has satisfactorily met the requirements of the assignment.

A D paper falls below the average paper submitted in college-level courses. While there are lapses in significant areas, nevertheless, with revision, the paper could be improved to a college level.

A F paper is below the standard for a college-level course. The student has not been able to meet the requirements of the assignment and/or does not show an understanding of college-level expectations in several areas: content and appropriate development, organization, use of sources, grammar and mechanics, careful proofreading, and format.

CONSIDERATION STATEMENT:

Grading is not a rigid process. It occurs within the context of a class. Given that, the grade on a paper may be influenced by the following considerations:

- The time in the semester that the paper is submitted (early/middle/late)
- The instructor’s emphasis for the particular paper
- The time permitted for preparation and/or writing (in-class/out-of-class)
- The complexity of the assignment
- A student’s improvement over the course of a semester