

Writing Rubric for Theatre & Dance Courses

An A paper will demonstrate the following characteristics:

1. The paper achieves, states, and maintains a clear and consistent focus throughout.
2. The paper provides more than adequate support for all main points. This would include specific references to scripts, performances, production elements, and technical or artistic values as well as secondary sources where appropriate.
3. This support is properly documented in accord with MLA standards.
4. The paper does not contain a pattern of serious grammatical errors and, in fact, displays evidence of sound syntactic structure and variety.
5. In addition to clear focus, above-average support, and sound writing technique, an A paper also exhibits a level of perception and the ability to think creatively about theatre and dance in a manner not found in lesser, more average papers.

A B paper will demonstrate the following characteristics:

All of the above characteristics except #5. This paper is clearly focused, well supported, and well written. It makes and supports valid points about theatre or dance. It simply lacks that higher level of perceptive ability which distinguishes the A paper.

A C paper will demonstrate the following characteristics:

1. The paper has a focus, but may not consistently address this focus throughout. In addition, the central ideas are probably not unique or original.
2. The paper provides adequate support for its main points.
3. The documentation for this support is basically correct.
4. The paper may contain several serious grammatical errors. There is a decided lack of syntactic variety.
5. The essay, while addressing the topic, does not shed any particularly interesting light on the subject nor does it exhibit a high level of perception nor engagement with the subject matter.

A D paper will demonstrate the following characteristics:

1. This paper lacks a clear controlling idea, wandering from point to point without any visible strategy.
2. This paper fails to provide adequate support nor does it make enough specific references to scripts, performances, or other required sources.
3. Proper documentation is attempted but not standard.
4. The paper may contain a pattern of serious grammatical errors.
5. Perceptive qualities are not on display in the D paper, which says very little and says it poorly.

An F paper will demonstrate the following characteristics:

1. This paper has some or all of the problems listed under the D paper but in a more severe form: no focus, no support, no attempt at documentation procedures, serious grammatical and syntactic flaws and virtually no coherent message or opinions concerning the subject being analysed.