

## Final Paper Grading Guidelines

- F: Inappropriate topic/paper topic not approved  
Mechanical errors serious enough to impede comprehensibility
- D: No arguable thesis  
No relevant evidence  
No counter-argument  
Numerous mechanical errors  
Paper significantly too short  
Paper lacks sufficient sources
- C-: No arguable thesis  
Inappropriate counter-argument  
Minimal relevant evidence  
No explanation of significance  
Some mechanical errors  
Paper is correct length  
Paper has sufficient sources
- C: Minimal attempt to:  
    state an arguable thesis  
    provide relevant evidence and explain how it supports the thesis  
    provide counter-argument or alternative theory with supporting evidence  
    provide explanation of significance  
Poor construction/organization
- C+: Minimal attempt at an argument and other required elements of the paper (as above for a “C”)  
Structure, organization, writing relatively clear
- B-: Arguable thesis (can be problematic)  
Substantial evidence, valid and relevant to the thesis  
Substantial effort to explain relevance of evidence  
Plausible counter-argument or alternative theory presented  
Substantial effort to explain significance  
Writing can be problematic
- B: Arguable, sound thesis  
Most evidence valid and relevant to the thesis  
Thorough, if perhaps still problematic, attempt to explain relevance of evidence  
Plausible counter-argument or alternative theory reasonably rebutted using evidence cited  
Sound but perhaps problematic explanation of significance  
Writing relatively clear
- B+: Arguable, sound, strong thesis  
All evidence valid and relevant to the thesis  
Plausible counter-argument or alternative theory reasonably rebutted  
Relevance of most evidence explained clearly  
Clear explanation of significance  
Writing relatively clear
- A-/A: Arguable, sophisticated thesis  
Superior breadth of valid, relevant, well-explained evidence  
Superior exploration and rebuttal of plausible counter-argument or alternative theory  
Superior explanation of significance  
Clear and sophisticated writing