

CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE: GRADING STANDARDS GUIDE FOR ESSAYS

	SUPERIOR (A- B)	AVERAGE(C)	UNACCEPTABLE (D- F)
CONTENT	A significant central idea clearly defined and supported with concrete, substantial, and consistently relevant detail	Central idea apparent but trivial, or trite, or too general; supported with concrete detail, but detail that is occasionally repetitious, irrelevant, or sketchy	Central idea lacking, or confused, or unsupported with concrete and relevant detail
ORGANIZATION: Rhetorical and Logical Development	Theme planned so that it progresses by clearly ordered and necessary stages, and developed with originality and consistent attention to proportion and emphasis; paragraphs coherent, unified, and effectively developed; transitions between paragraphs explicit and effective	Plan and method of theme apparent but not consistently fulfilled; developed with only occasional disproportion or inappropriate emphasis; paragraphs unified, coherent, usually effective in their development; transitions between paragraphs clear but abrupt, mechanical, or monotonous	Plan and purpose of theme not apparent; undeveloped or developed with irrelevance, redundancy, or inconsistency; paragraphs incoherent, not unified, or undeveloped; transitions between paragraphs unclear or ineffective
ORGANIZATION: Sentence Structure	Sentences skillfully constructed (unified, coherent, forceful, effectively varied	Sentences correctly constructed but lacking distinction	Sentences not unified, incoherent, fused, incomplete, monotonous, or childish
DICTION	Distinctive: fresh, precise, economical, and idiomatic	Appropriate: clear and idiomatic	Inappropriate: vague, unidiomatic, or substandard
GRAMMAR, PUNCTUATION, SPELLING	Clarity and effectiveness of expression promoted by consistent use of standard grammar, punctuation, and spelling	Clarity and effectiveness of expression weakened by occasional deviations from standard grammar, punctuation, and spelling	Communication obscured by frequent deviations from standard grammar, punctuation, and spelling
MAJOR ERRORS	No major errors (A), not more than one major error (B)	Not more than two major errors	Not more than three major errors (D), four or more major errors (F)