

**A-range. Must have all of the following characteristics:**

- Well-organized
- Does not stray from thesis
- Develops and explains ideas clearly
- Insightful, adds “something special”
- Language is original, fresh and engaging and purposeful (not merely decorative)
- Does not waste words – Every sentence is necessary in developing the thesis
- Sentence structure is varied
- Avoids excessive verbatim quoting
- No major spelling or grammatical errors
- Sources are cited
- MLA documentation is accurate and appropriate

**B-range. May have one or more of the following characteristics:**

- Organized, developed
- Possibly few inconsistencies
- May stray slightly from thesis
- Reports information but does not engage the reader
- Most paragraphs are coherent and unified
- Sentences are complete but not as skillfully employed as in the A paper
- Some sentences may be wordy without contributing much
- May rely too heavily on direct quotes
- Few minor spelling and grammatical errors
- Sources are cited
- MLA documentation correct and complete in most places but not all

**C-range. May have one or more of the following characteristics:**

- Possibly disorganized, inconsistent
- Paragraphs lack unity and/or coherence
- Ideas are undeveloped, repetitive or unoriginal
- Organization is apparent in only some of the paragraphs
- Some ideas seem connected but one or more paragraphs seems tacked on
- Has clichés
- Grammatical and/or mechanical errors interfere with reader’s ability to understand prose
- Citation is incomplete
- Some mistakes in MLA formatting or citations.

**D-range. May have one or more of the following characteristics:**

- Thesis is unclear or overly broad
- Paper does not demonstrate knowledge about topic
- Paragraphs do not seem related to introduction
- Grammatical and/or mechanical errors interfere with readers ability to understand prose
- Does not follow MLA format

**F-range.**

- Blatantly plagiarized, far too short, completely disorganized, etc.