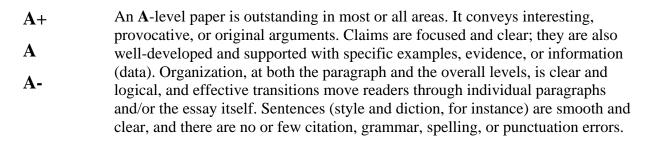
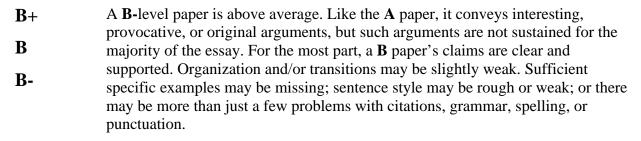
## **Essay Grading Criteria**

The following descriptions will help you understand the criteria used when essay grades are determined. (See the syllabus for more information concerning the grades of papers turned in late.)





- C- A C-level paper is, obviously, average. The writer responded to the assignment adequately and competently. However, there may be problems with unclear, unsupported, or contradictory claims. Or, there may also be problems with focus, coherence, style, or organization. Transitions may be weak or missing all together, or there may be too many problems with grammar, spelling, or punctuation. (Note that many **B**-level papers are often brought down to the C level because of too many mechanical errors—ones that demonstrate that the writer did not sufficiently revise, proofread, and/or edit the work.)
- A D-level paper is below average. The writing is unfocused, confusing, and contains too many errors in relation to claims, organization, and/or mechanics
  D (grammar, spelling, and punctuation). While the paper may contain good ideas, the writer may not have devoted sufficient time to the assignment.
- **F** An **F**-level paper fails to deal with the assignment in any meaningful way. It is completely off track and has few, if any, redeeming qualities.