

# SOUTHWESTERN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

## LEVELS OF WRITING QUALITY

LEVEL	FEATURES
<b>LEVEL 1 WRITING</b> <b>(Beginner)</b> <b>Score 1-7</b>  <b>An "F" paper</b>	Ill-defined or no thesis present Unfocused sense of audience Inadequate organization or insufficient details to support ideas Does not demonstrate understanding of topic beyond a surface level Does not reflect reading about the subject from many sources Multiple errors in grammar, sentence structure, or spelling Lacks proper citations or uses of the material of others A "first draft" paper
<b>LEVEL 2 WRITING</b> <b>(Novice)</b> <b>Score 8-15</b>  <b>A "C" or "D" Paper</b>	Vague purpose or multiple purposes Sense of audience fades Development is present but is inconsistent Does not advance an argument using adequate supporting ideas or evidence Demonstrates some understanding of the topic, but does not make connections among ideas Lack of language facility with frequent errors Lacks evidence of outside readings or research Lacks skills of weaving outside readings into work in a smooth and ethical manner A first or second draft paper
<b>LEVEL 3 WRITING</b> <b>(Proficient)</b> <b>Score 16-23</b>  <b>A "B" paper</b>	Expresses a clear, coherent thesis Sticks to the purpose and provides adequate transitions among ideas Connects ideas within the material and to other ideas and sources Moves beyond surface understanding and demonstrates facility with topical and disciplinary knowledge Conveys a sense of audience with appropriate use of disciplinary language Advances argument with sound evidence and adequate references Readability enhanced by facility with language and sentence and paragraph structures Reveals some reading and research on the subject Properly uses citations and the work of others to avoid plagiarism Reflects ongoing improvements in final product
<b>LEVEL 4 WRITING</b> <b>(Advanced)</b> <b>Score 24-30</b>  <b>An "A" paper</b>	Insightful, creative, or skillfully designed purpose Integrates previous learning with new ideas in a manner revealing personal synthesis Sense of audience demonstrated through form and language Demonstrates disciplinary understanding and interconnections; links are made suggesting the discovery of new information or new ways of applying, designing, or displaying; Reveals wide reading and research Reveals ongoing improvements in a quality and near perfect final product Effective organization contributes to full development of presentation Innovatively or expertly advances argument with well-researched evidence and proper documentation Work enhanced by facility in language use, range of expression, and syntactic variety