**Descriptions of Quality Grades from *Teaching Matters*:**

A/A-: Excellent in all or nearly all respects. The interest of the reader is engaged by the ideas and presentation. Effective organization and writing. Paper marked by originality of ideas.

B+: Clear argument, clear writing, good evidence, appropriate response to question.

B/B-: Technically competent, with perhaps a lapse here and there. The thesis is clear, properly

limited, and reasonable, and the proposal is generally good but not distinguished. Use of evidence is sufficient.

C+/C: A competent piece of work, but not yet good. More or less adequately organized along obvious lines. Thesis may be unclear or over simple. Development is often skimpy. Use of evidence may be inadequate. Monotony of sentence structure is apparent and errors may be sprinkled throughout.

C-/D/D-: A piece of work that demonstrates some efforts on the author's part but that is too marred by technical problems or flaws in thinking or development of ideas to be considered competent work.

E/F: Failing grade. Essay may not respond to assignment. Essay may be far too short. Grammar and style may be careless.