Liberal Studies Writing Standards

An A Paper

Has a sound, original thesis
Supports the thesis with textual evidence
Handles quotations well; does not quote excessively or sloppily
Features developed (not meager) paragraphs
Flows from sentence to sentence without disruptions of logic
Varies the length and construction of sentences
Uses apostrophes correctly; observes parallel structure, rules of agreement, and the like
Is not dogmatic
Avoids jargon and clichés
May use ironic or figurative expressions
Respects the craft of writing
Does not patronize the past
Delights and persuades the reader

A B Paper

Has a sound thesis
Supports the thesis with textual evidence
Handles quotations well as a rule, but may quote excessively or fail to integrate quoted passages
Features some developed and some ill-developed paragraphs
Flows from sentence to sentence with occasional breaks in logic
Tends toward uniform sentence length and construction
Mistakes an apostrophe or two, commits the odd spelling error, but generally handles mechanics correctly
Slips now and then into repetition, but is not dogmatic
Slips now and then into jargon or cliché, but knows better
Respects the craft
Falls occasionally into anachronisms or patronizing judgments of the past
More or less persuades the reader

A C Paper

Has a thesis barely worthy of argument
Offers some textual evidence
Handles quotations with some carelessness
Features undeveloped paragraphs
Features poor transitions and/or sentences that do not follow
Locks itself into a pattern of sentence construction; is choppy
Shows some fragments, run-on sentences, misused apostrophes, breaks in parallelism and agreement
Repeats
Uses jargon and clichés
Shows little respect for the craft
Falls into anachronisms; makes vast historical judgments
Fails to persuade the reader

A D Paper

Has a thesis unworthy of argument
Offers little or no textual evidence
Misquotes, quotes excessively as a way of dodging work, puts quotations anywhere and everywhere
Features underdeveloped paragraphs, often in no particular order
Is strewn with poor transitions and/or sentences that don’t follow
Is written not only in choppy but defective sentences
Is marred with fragments, run-on sentences, misused apostrophes, faults of parallelism and agreement
Is repetitive and dogmatic
Relies on jargon and clichés
Shows no respect for the craft
Falls into anachronisms; makes absurd historical judgments
Offends a reader’s intelligence