

## **General Education Expectations for Student Writing Montgomery College**

**Upon completion of the General Education program at Montgomery College, student writing should reflect the following elements:**

### **A. Content**

*Satisfactory college-level writing*

- fulfills the discipline and assignment expectations, meeting all specified requirements, such as subject, organization, and length;
- reflects the author's awareness of audience and purpose;
- presents a central idea supported by relevant material (facts, figures, examples, quotations, or other details);
- acknowledges and responds to other points of view as appropriate; and
- accurately presents and fully attributes sources of information.

### **B. Organization**

*Satisfactory college-level writing*

- follows the discipline and assignment expectations for organization;
- maintains focus and unity throughout the assignment;
- supports a central idea, or thesis, throughout the assignment; and
- uses some or all of the following devices, as appropriate: thesis statement, topic sentences, opening and closing paragraphs, and transitions throughout most of the assignment.

### **C. Style/Expression**

*Satisfactory college-level writing*

- uses effective style (tone, word choice, sentence patterns) for its discipline, assignment, audience, and purpose;
- connects ideas throughout the text;
- structures sentences that are generally understandable, correct, and appropriate to discipline and assignment standards;
- reflects current academic practices of language use and documentation established by professional associations, such as the Modern Language Association, the American Psychological Association or other discipline specific professional organization.

### **D. Grammar/Mechanics**

*Satisfactory college-level writing*

- follows the conventions of standard written U.S. English and is generally free of errors (grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and usage) that impede meaning or distract the reader.

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*These standards are adapted from the "Standards for a "C" Grade in English Composition" developed by the Maryland Statewide English Composition Committee and approved by the Intersegmental Chief Academic Officers in 1998.*