

General Education Expectations for Student Writing
Montgomery College
2006-2008

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
- employs some or all of the following devices: thesis statement, topic sentences, opening and closing paragraphs, and transitions throughout most of the assignment.

C. Style/Expression

Satisfactory college-level writing

- employs effective style (tone, word choice, sentence patterns) for its discipline, assignment, audience, and purpose;
- effectively 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 documentatio 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.

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.

These are draft standards reflecting input from faculty over the period of 11-06-5/07. These standards reflect expectations for completion of Gen Ed program.