“A” = excellent or highly proficient. Portfolios that earn an “A”:

- Demonstrate clear understanding of rhetorical concepts (for example, triangle, canons, and appeals)
- Analyze, with ample insight, the writer’s own composing processes and rhetorical choices
- Exhibit substantial and consistent attention to revision of both content and structure in all texts
- Posit intriguing and original theses and skillfully support arguments of significant complexity
- Organize ideas and arguments in a fluid manner using substantive paragraphs and supporting transitions
- Always choose credible and relevant sources, skillfully integrate sources and correctly cite sources
- Contain stylistically advanced prose throughout
- Contain few to no surface errors and/or exhibit no error patterns

“B” = good or proficient. Portfolios that earn a “B”:

- Demonstrate a good understanding of rhetorical concepts (for example, triangle, canons, and appeals)
- Analyze, with some insight, the writer’s own composing processes and rhetorical choices
- Exhibit consistent attention to revision of both content and structure in all texts
- Posit focused and arguable theses and sustain arguments of some complexity
- Organize ideas and arguments in a clear manner using well-developed paragraphs and supporting transitional elements
- Choose credible and relevant sources, successfully integrate sources and correctly cite sources
- Contain stylistically effective prose throughout
- Contain few surface errors and/or exhibit one error pattern

“C” = average or emerging proficiency. Portfolios that earn a “C”:

- Demonstrate adequate understanding of rhetorical concepts (for example, triangle, canons, and appeals)
- Analyze, with limited insight, the writer’s own composing processes and rhetorical choices
- Exhibit attention to revision of both content and structure in most texts
- Posit theses that may be partially supported by an argument of minimal complexity
- Organize ideas and arguments in a coherent manner using developed paragraphs or supporting transitional elements
- Sometimes use credible or relevant sources, sometimes integrate sources, and cite sources
- Sometimes contain stylistically effective prose
- Contain consistent surface errors and/or two or more error patterns

“D” = below average or limited proficiency. Portfolios that earn a “D”:

- Demonstrate inadequate understanding of rhetorical concepts (for example, triangle, canons, and appeals)
- Offer inadequate analysis of the writer’s own composing processes and rhetorical choices
- Exhibit little attention to revision of both content and structure in most texts
Posit theses that are vague or unsupportable and offer, but do not sustain, an argument
Organize ideas and arguments in an incoherent manner using underdeveloped paragraphs and transitional elements
Rarely use sources that are credible or relevant, rarely integrate sources, and/or cite these sources inaccurately
Contain consistent stylistic issues
Contain significant errors and/or patterns of error that obscure meaning

“F” = failing. Portfolios that earn an “F”:
Fail to demonstrate understanding of rhetorical concepts (for example, triangle, canons, and appeals)
Offer little-to-no analysis of the writer’s own composing processes and rhetorical choices
Exhibit no attention to revision of either content or structure
Fail to posit recognizable theses and fail to offer discernable arguments
Fail to organize ideas and arguments in any discernable manner; contain no visible paragraphs or transitional elements
Include no sources, fail to integrate sources, and/or do not cite sources; or work is plagiarized from sources
Contain significant stylistic problems
Contain significant errors and/or patterns of error that impede meaning