

CONTRACT REVIEW SESSION #1 (GRADE CHECK #1)

GRADE GOAL

In terms of an overall letter grade, my goal is to earn a(n) _____ in this course.

CURRENT GRADE

-- Based on **1 Essay** (of 6), **12 Tasks** (of 48) *approximately*, and **1 Demo** (of 4) --
-- Note: if lacking data due to a late or revised essay, determine your grade a little later --

1. Insert Current Course Data:

- | | | Revised Data |
|------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| • ESSAYS: | I've passed all except _____. | _____ |
| • TASKS: | I've completed all except _____. | _____ |
| • DEMOS: | I've passed all except _____. | _____ |
| (MEEs): | I've earned _____. | _____ |

Minimum Requirement: Each category must be fulfilled to earn a given course grade. This means the lowest category result determines the course grade.

2. Revise Current Data by Using MEEs -or- Pursue "A" Grade Goal by Saving Enough MEEs

- Marks of Exceptional Effort (MEEs) can be used or saved.
- Used marks serve to make up work: one (1) mark makes up for one (1) missing task; three (3) marks makes up for one (1) missing or non-passing proficiency demo.
- Saved marks can be collected to earn an A. To qualify to earn an A in the course, students need to earn and retain 15 marks of exceptional effort. For details about collecting and saving MEEs, see next page.

3. Determine Current Grade. Based on the criteria in the Grading Contract, my CURRENT GRADE is this: _____

CURRENT GRADE FORECAST

1. Insert Current (Revised) Course Data and Multiply to Forecast Data

- | | | | Forecast Data |
|------------------|---------------------------------|------------|--|
| • ESSAYS: | I've passed all except _____ | x 6 | = I'll pass all essays except _____ |
| • TASKS: | I've completed all except _____ | x 4 | = I'll complete all tasks except _____ |
| • DEMOS: | I've passed all except _____ | x 4 | = I'll pass all demos except _____ |

2. Consider Essay Revision Possibilities. I have _____ essay revisions that I can use (out of two).

3. See next page for details on MEEs needed to qualify for an A. At this point, on track for an A = at least 1 MEE.

4. Determine Grade Forecast. Based on these calculations, my CURRENT GRADE FORECAST is this: _____

ACTION PLAN

Given my grade goal of _____, my current grade of _____, and my current grade forecast of _____, my plan is this:

Contract Grading Details about Marks of Exceptional Effort (MEEs)

An overview of MEEs is included in our syllabus:



- Marks can be earned by showing exceptional work and growth, but in order to accumulate the full amount required for an A, the majority of those marks will need to come from demonstrating exceptional essay work.
- A limited amount of marks is available through other means, such as showing exceptional improvement, showing exceptional involvement in class, and doing extra credit, and those kinds of marks can definitely improve course grades but not enough to earn an A.

Can you elaborate more about Marks of Exceptional Effort?

Some questions you might have are these:

- **How can we get the marks? When can we get the marks? How many marks can we get?**
- **How will I know if I'm on track to get an A in the course?**

The information below helps answer those questions.

- Students can earn the following amounts of MEEs in the following ways:
 - ❖ Up to (3) three marks for Extra Credit (at least 12 opportunities are available)
 - ❖ Up to (2) two marks for demonstrating Exceptional Growth
 - ❖ Up to (2) two marks for demonstrating Exceptional Participation
 - ❖ Up to 15 marks for Exceptional Essays (30 opportunities are available)
- **Extra Credit** opportunities are listed on the extra credit handout, and they occur throughout the semester.
- **Exceptional Growth** can occur throughout the semester, and if marks are earned in that category, it will be communicated to students in their essay feedback (mid-semester in Essay #2 and late semester in Essay #4). Exceptional means more than average academic growth, and it's earned when students demonstrate exceptional growth in the classroom and in their essays, demos, and tasks. Typically it occurs by using feedback, seeking extra assistance, and going the extra mile to reach or surpass the goals that have been set.
- **Exceptional Participation** can also occur throughout the semester, and if marks are earned in that category, it will be communicated to students in their essay feedback (mid-semester in Essay #2 and late semester in Essay #4). Marks for exceptional participation go to students who are *consistently prepared, engaged, and actively involved* in class. They go to those who are helpful and active participants in group work and class discussions. And they go to students who *often* volunteer to share their ideas but also hold back at times when listening to others is more valuable.
- **Exceptional Essays** are essential to earning an A in the course since the majority of MEEs must come from essays. Each essay assignment comes with specific goals, but exceptional essays, in general, demonstrate the following:
 - Excellent content (assertive thesis; powerful support; engaging examples; well-selected quotes; careful explanations)
 - Excellent clarity (meticulous proofreading; professional-looking MLA formatting and citations)
 - Excellent flow (highly effective transitions, topic sentences, and paragraphing)

How will I know if I'm on track to earn an A?

Possible MEEs to be earned for each essay:

Essay 1 = 2	Essay 3 = 6
Essay 2 = 4	Essay 4 = 8
In-Class = 4	In-class = 6
Midterm	Final

- A maximum of 15 MEEs can be earned on essays, but there are 30 opportunities to earn MEEs on essays.
- Most opportunities occur after mid-semester.
- **You'll be on track to earn an A if you're earning, on average, half the available MEEs for each essay (assuming you don't need to use them to make up missing work).**