

Evaluation Criteria

The following guidelines will be used to evaluate reports.¹

An A-range paper will:

- show careful, creative, and critical thinking about the topic, questions, and results.
- include appropriate references.
- be clear, concise, well-organized, and engaging.
- describe and interpret all important findings in the context of the study.
- be understandable to someone who has finished Math 158 and received a B or better.
- use all technical terms correctly and have informative, carefully-crafted plots.
- show exemplary understanding of the statistical methods we have discussed.
- be grammatically correct.
- look professional with no superfluous R code.
- follow all directions.

A B-range paper will:

- usually display careful, creative, and critical thinking but might have a few lapses.
- be described accurately by at least 2 of the following descriptors: clear, concise, well-organized, and engaging.
- be *mostly* understandable to someone who has finished Math 158 and received a B or better.
- describe and interpret all important statistical findings in the context of the study.
- show a solid understanding of the statistical methods we have discussed.
- have references that are possibly incomplete.
- have plots that are good but not great (e.g. axes could be better labeled).
- usually use technical terms correctly.
- have grammar that is usually correct, with maybe only a couple errors.

¹Adapted from Christina Knudson, Department of Mathematics, University of St. Thomas, Stat 333

- have only a few typos.
- have very few lapses with respect to superfluous R code.
- follow all directions.

A C-range paper might have **some** of the following problems:

- the included plots are problematic (e.g. uninformative axis labels) or barely relevant.
- no display of consistent careful and critical thinking.
- no appropriate references.
- technical terms that are used incorrectly several times.
- be described accurately by only 1 of the following descriptors: clear, concise, well-organized, and engaging.
- be mostly inaccessible to someone who has finished Math 158 and received a B or better.
- no description/interpretation of important statistical findings in the context of the study.
- an incomplete understanding of the statistical methods discussed in class.
- a paper in need of basic editing: it may contain several typos and/or grammatical errors.

An unsatisfactory paper (D or F) might be incomplete or might have many of the problems that affect the C-range papers.