

HOW TO INTERPRET YOUR BLOG REPORT

Each set of parentheses on the blog report indicates **one comment** that you have made on the blog. The comments are listed under the weeks in which they were made. So, for example, a report that reads like this ...

WEEK 1 (Mar 24–Mar 29)	WEEK 2 (Mar 30–Apr 5)	WEEK 3 (Apr 6–Apr 12)
(x+,y,z)	(x,y)	(x,y), (x-,y+,z-)

... means that according to my records, you have left four comments on the blog—one in Week 1, one in Week 2, and two in Week 3.

If you believe that my records about the quantity of your comments is wrong, please inform me as soon as possible

What are all these x's, y's and z's for?

Remember that your comments on the blog should do three things (x, y, & z!):

1. Demonstrate that you did the readings. (x)
2. Demonstrate that you thought about the readings. (y)
3. Engage with the comments of other students. (z)

For each comment you make, I record in my gradebook my sense of how well you met each of these goals. For example, an “x+” means your comment showed excellent proof that you did the readings and that you understood them exceptionally well. A “y-” means that you showed some thought about the readings, but that you demonstrated only a bare minimum of engagement with the texts. If a letter is missing, it means that this particular comment did not, in my view, meet the goal at all. For example, if your comment did not receive a “z,” that means that it did not engage at all with comments from students.

How do these translate into A's, B's, and C's?

At the end of the quarter, I will grade your blog comments holistically. That is, I will look at all of your comment marks *as a whole* and convert them into a letter grade according to the following rubric:

An “A” or “A-” indicates *sustained excellence* on your blog comments, which means that your comments regularly exceeded all three of the goals listed above (that is, you regularly got “pluses” and regularly wrote comments that did x, y, *and* z).

Continued on back

A “B+”, “B”, or “B-“ indicates *consistent competence* on your blog comments, which means that your comments regularly met all three of the goals listed above. The difference between a “B” and a “A” lies in fewer “pluses,” or weak performance relative to one of the goals (for instance, maybe you did really well on “x” and “y,” but hardly ever did excellent work for goal “z.”)

A “C+”, “C”, or “C-“ indicates *acceptable, passing work* on your blog comments, which means that you wrote comments that did the bare minimum to meet the listed goals (usually indicated by a “minus”), but rarely wrote comments that rose to higher degrees of excellence, or failed to address one of the goals altogether.

Grades of “D” or “F” on the blog comment assignment means either that you never posted comments (“F”), or that you posted comments that did not achieve any of the three goals listed for the assignment (“D”).

Remember that you must post comments in seven different calendar weeks to avoid penalties for irregular posting. At the end of the quarter, after I have assigned a grade for your comments, I will deduct half a letter for each week less than seven that you posted.

For more about the grading guidelines for the blog assignment, see the “Assignments” page on the course webpage, and watch the blog for posts about how to improve your grades in specific goal areas (like x, y, or z) and for links to exemplary comments that exceeded expectations for all three goals.