

Video Transcript:

Grades in this Technical Writing Course

[The images in the video are decorative, illustrating the text below, which appears on screen. They do not add to the meaning of the video. There is a soundtrack that plays an upbeat, happy tune on string instruments.]

Your grades are based 100% on your labor as you complete the required activities and projects and actively contribute to the writing community.

In the workplace, you will be assessed by how hard you work and what you accomplish. Managers rarely give letter grades. They expect you to show up, put in your best effort and accomplish the goals your company sets.

If you do nothing or the bare minimum, you will be reprimanded or fired.

Grades in this course are based on a similar system. You earn your grade based on your labor—the time and intensity you put in as you write and collaborate. You are not punished for mistakes as long as you work to improve throughout the term.

The labor in this course includes the following:

- **Reading, Listening, and Viewing** texts including ebooks, websites, images, and videos.
- **Writing** drafts, revisions, and updates for the major projects in this course.
- **Providing & Responding to Feedback** on writing by class members.
- **Reflecting** on what you've done and how you can improve.
- **Collaborating** with your group to plan projects and keep on schedule.

This grading system is probably not what you are used to so let me explain five tips for your work:

1. **Focus on Ideas (Not Mistakes).** Your ideas are the most important part of what you write. Perfectionism just distracts you from developing your ideas.
2. **Write for Yourself (Not for Me).** You are learning strategies that are important for your field. Don't work to impress your teacher. Work to find out what makes writing effective in your field.
3. **Take Risks (Don't Play It Safe).** Stretch your abilities. Learn new things. Taking risks won't count against you.
4. **Have a Do-Over (No Penalty).** If you take a risk and it doesn't turn out, you can always try again. Just like in a game, you have unlimited do-overs. As long as you are working to improve, you can't fail.
5. **Put In the Effort (No Pain, No Gain).** You need to write, rewrite, start over, and try again to improve your projects. The most important take-away is that going through the motions won't work. You must engage deeply in the course and work consistently to improve your writing and collaboration.

If you follow these five tips and participate fully, you will do well in the course.

End Credits

An Unharmed Kitten Production

Created by Traci Gardner

Media Sources

Goofing off in the office by Awiseman - <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Awiseman>

Torg Bridge by Paul Kurlak, on Flickr, used under a CC-BY 2.0 license

Bengal tech (32502791724) by Virginia Department of Education -
<https://www.flickr.com/people/50426192@N04>

workshop by Project manas -

http://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=User:Project_manas&action=edit&redlink=1

Kindle by Giorgio Minguzzi on Flickr, used under a CC-BY-SA 2.0 license. <https://flic.kr/p/wtSXMq>

Ashs-students-talking by Mosborne01 - <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Mosborne01>

Revision by jim crossley on Flickr, used under a CC-BY-NC-SA 2.0 license. <https://flic.kr/p/bpbL2C>