The Grading Rubric: Paper 1

Where does the paper land on the target for each criterion?

- Is the thesis
  - strong, safe, general, or weak?
  - clear, timeless, relevant?
  - whether explicit or implicit, promising and focused, or rambling, unsure where it is headed, about too much or too little for the space allotted?

- Is the support
  - relative to the thesis, or filler?
  - potent and convincing, or misconstrued, weak, or lacking?

- Are details
  - specific or abstract?
  - enough, too few?

- Is organization
  - logical or random
  - linked or a list?

- Are words
  - precise or random?
  - defined when needed?
  - representative of Standard Written English?

- Do connecting words / grammar
  - highlight relationships between ideas, or make reader struggle?
  - lead the reader with transitions between sentences and paragraphs or does an absence make readers struggle to follow

- Are grammar / spelling errors
  - not applicable, hardly noticeable, occasional, or do they halt the reader?

- Is the thesis/ support
  - relevant, relatable, and purposeful to a college educated audience?

- Is author's purpose to
  - tell a story that compares and describes and make its point through showing, or is it to simply describe a series of places, events?

- Is the tone or voice
  - right for the audience and subject matter or too informal, cavalier?

- Is the thesis
  - strong, safe, general, or weak?
  - clear, timeless, relevant?
  - whether explicit or implicit, promising and focused, or rambling, unsure where it is headed, about too much or too little for the space allotted?

- Is the support
  - relative to the thesis, or filler?
  - potent and convincing, or misconstrued, weak, or lacking?

Note: A plagiarized paper nullifies all other scores

A- 90% always
B- 80% usually
C- 70% sometimes
D- 60% rarely
F 50% never

Do drafts show
- plans; moved, rearranged parts; additions, and cuts?
- development and changes or is the rough same as final with only error corrections, if any?
- Does work cited page (if needed) show
  - authoritative sources?
  - correct citations?
- Does final paper show
  - MLA format?
- understanding of/ attention to the assignment, peer review comments, instructor's examples, or not?