Readiness Criteria for First-Year Composition

1. **QUANTITY:** Although some texts written in the course may be a single page or less, essays included in the portfolios should communicate ideas too complex to be completed in one page. Students who are ready for FYC should be writing essays at least two pages in length.

2. **CONTENT:** Writing should exhibit the following:
   A. Thesis statement or main idea;
   B. For the most part, organization and development logical and appropriate to the type of writing, audience, and purpose;
   C. Use of relevant illustration, explanation, anecdote, etc. to elaborate and convey meaning.

3. **CORRECTNESS:** The final drafts of the essays included in the portfolios should be relatively free of the following:
   A. Sentence fragments;
   B. Comma splices and run-on sentences;
   C. Subject-verb non-agreement;
   D. Spelling errors.

Any or all of these errors should not be so numerous that they interfere with the reader’s understanding of the essay.

4. **PROCESS:** The student generates ideas, organizes thoughts and information, and develops drafts. The student analyzes and revises written work to make it relative to audiences and purposes by:
   A. Adding or deleting details;
   B. Adding or deleting explanations;
   C. Clarifying difficult passages by rearranging words, sentences, and paragraphs;
   D. Reconsidering the overall structure and making necessary changes.

The student proofreads and edits his/her work to correct errors in grammar and punctuation.

Readers will look at earlier drafts to see if they have been revised and edited with the above concerns in mind. Preliminary drafts of essays written later in the semester should show more awareness of these aspects than those written earlier.