How to Calculate Your Grade

Your grade for any course of mine is calculated based on a weighted scale. You can't just add everything together and divide by the number of possible points. It doesn't work that way. Instead, you have to pay attention to the category weights as listed on the syllabus. For example, one of my composition classes sometimes uses the following categories and weights:

- Essays #1 through #4 (**70 %**)
- Essays #5 through #8 (**10 %**)
- Presentation (**10 %**)
- Daily Work (**10 %**)

What this means is that you have to calculate a separate grade for each category and then add them together based on the percentages.

These weight values listed in boldface above are listed again in boldface in the sixth column in the following table. The table shows how to calculate your grade if your class used the weights above and you made the grades listed in the third column of the table.

Weight Category	Assignments	Points You Earned	Points Possible	Divide Points Earned by Points Possible	Multiply by the Category's Weight (*e.g.*, 30 % = 0.30)	Add the Results in This Column Together
Essays #1 through #4	Essay 1	29	40			
	Essay 2	30	40			
	Essay 3	33	40			
	Essay 4	35	40			
	Category Total:	**127**	**160**	→127/160=0.794→	0.794 x **0.70** = 0.5558→	0.5558
Essays #5 through #8	Essay 5	25	30			
	Essay 6	27	30			
	Essay 7	28	30			
	Essay 8	26	30			
	Category Total:	**106**	**120**	→106/120=0.883→	0.883 x **0.10** = 0.0883→	0.0883
Presentation	Presentation	17	20			
	Category Total:	**17**	**20**	→17/20=0.850→	0.850 x **0.10** = 0.0850→	0.0850
Daily Work	MLA Exercise	12	15			
	Source Citation	14	20			
	Paragraph 1	14	15			
	Draft Points	13	13			
	Paragraph 2	15	20			
	Category Total:	**68**	**83**	→68/83=0.819→	0.819 x **0.10** = 0.0819→	0.0819
Add All Categories Together to Get Your Total Raw Score: 0.811						
Multiply by 100 to Get Your OVERALL GRADE: 0.811 x 100 = **81.1 %**						

What do these calculations mean for you as a student? They mean that the categories with higher weight percentages (like Essays #1 through #4 in this example) count for much more of your grade than the categories with lower percentages. As you work on your assignments during the semester or term, give more attention to the assignments in the categories with greater weights.