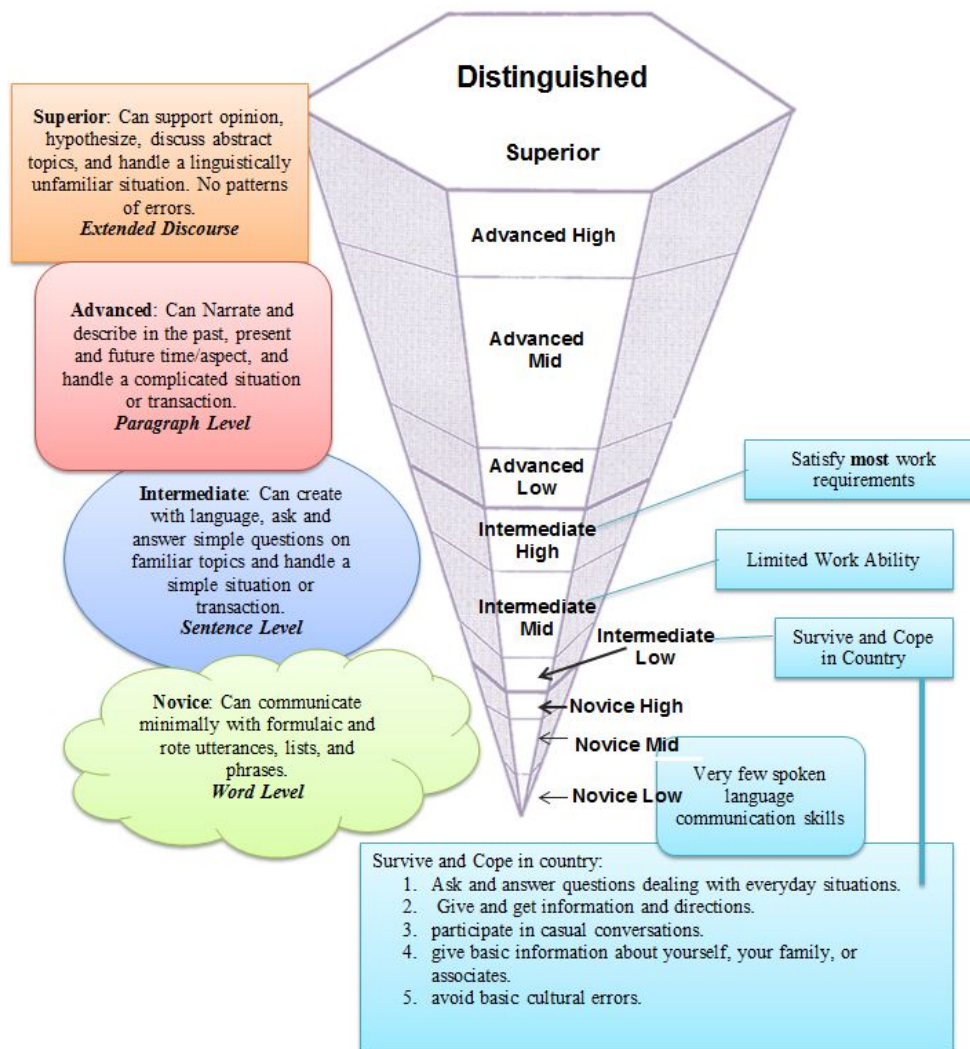


## You and your German grade or: how proficiency grading works

At Dripping Springs High School grades are divided in two categories:

- Formative Grades (homework, in-class assignments, etc)—30% of final grade
- Summative Grades (projects, tests, quizzes, etc)—70% of final grade

This year grading practices in German class will adjust to more accurately reflect the proficiency level of individual students. It takes time and commitment to reach a high level of proficiency. Take a look at the national standards for proficiency levels:



According to the American Council of Foreign Languages, this is the expected level of proficiency at the **end** of each year of high school German:

- German 1: Novice Mid-Novice High
- German 2: Novice High-Intermediate Low
- German 3: Intermediate Low-Intermediate Mid
- German 4: Intermediate Mid-Intermediate High

Because we are still operating within the confines of a 30/70 A-F grading system, there will still be formative and summative grades in the gradebook.

- Formative Grades (homework, independent reading, etc)—30%
- Summative Grades (participation, vocab quizzes, proficiency checks)—70%

Let's look more closely at summative grades.

- **Participation:** Participation is a huge part of this class! You are learning how to understand and speak German so you need to be actively involved to do so! You will receive 1-2 participation grades per six week term. You will also grade yourself on your class participation and you must be able to justify the grade you gave yourself!
- **Vocab Quizzes:** You are in charge of writing down the new words and phrases we learn in class...this includes words you missed while absent! Whenever we fill up a *Wortschatzliste* (76 words or phrases) we will have a vocabulary quiz the following week. This quiz will include defining words/phrases and correctly using them in context.
- **Proficiency Checks:** During class time you will be given short writing or speaking assignments. This will happen almost every day! 2-4 times per term I will randomly select the previous day's writing or speaking assignment and assign it a grade based on the following scale:

Missing/ Not Evident	Just Beginning	Approaches Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
0	1	2	3	4
55-65%	65-75%	75-85%	85-95%	95-100%

For example: If you're in your first few weeks of German 1 you're expected to be at a novice-low level. You will be graded according to novice-low expectations. However, by 5<sup>th</sup> term of German 1 you should be at (a minimum) the novice-mid level and you will be graded by those expectations.

As you progress throughout your years of German you will expand your vocabulary base and your ability to communicate will improve.

Learning a language doesn't look like this:

It looks like this:

Don't be afraid to make mistakes this year. Making mistakes shows that you're trying. I know it will be frustrating at times and it will take courage to push yourself out of your comfort level. Trust yourself and support your classmates as we take risks, make mistakes, create our own community, and learn German!