How Does Dr. Link Determine My Grade?

The Purpose of EEE Gradebook:
First, the TAs enter all scores on the EEE gradebook. Note that there will be a blank in the discussion section where an oral report was done in place of a written report. Because of the size and complexity of grading for our class, we cannot use the EEE gradebook to calculate final grades. The percentages given by gradebook are meaningless.

Dropping Lowest Scores:
Next, I collect all of the raw data from the EEE gradebooks and load it into excel. Then I use formulas to drop the lowest scores from the “Experiment” and “Discussion” sections. The blank score in the discussion section is also removed. Once the necessary scores are dropped, the score for the final exam is added to get a total score for the class. Note that the oral presentation and dry lab cannot be dropped.

Curves:
Two curves are calculated to determine letter grades. First, I calculate the mean and standard deviation for each individual section and use them to distribute letter grades within the section. Next I create a spreadsheet that combines all sections and calculate the mean and standard deviation for the entire class. Before using the statistics to determine a letter grade based on the overall class curve, any extra credit clicker points are added to the total points you earned in your section. Once the extra credit points have been added, I use the class mean and standard deviation (calculated before the extra credit was added) to assign letter grades based on the class curve.

Final Letter Grade Determination:
At this point, you have two letter grades. Often they will be the same grade. If they are not, what grade you receive depends on which is higher.

Section Grade Higher than Class Grade:
If the section grade is higher than the overall class grade, then your TA graded harder than others. In this case, you will get the section grade.

Class Grade Higher than Section Grade:
If the overall class grade is higher than the section grade, then your TA graded easier than others. If the difference is only one grade (B- versus B, for example) you will get the higher grade. If the difference in the two grades is greater, you will receive a grade between the two (B- versus A- would result in a B+).