

Camelot English Department Writing

Writing is graded on the following:

- CLARITY and ORGANIZATION – Does your meaning make sense? Can we follow your thoughts?
- CORRECTNESS - Use complete sentences and correct grammar and spelling
- COMPLETENESS and THOROUGHNESS – Be thorough in your answers – JUSTIFY and EXPLAIN
- CONTENT – Does your essay fulfill the assignment and reflect that you understand the topic

The numbers below replace some comments usually made on graded papers.

CLARITY AND ORGANIZATION:

- A. Introduction grabs the attention of the reader, provided adequate background, and emphasizes the importance of your topic.
 - 1. Introduction needs more to engage the reader in your topic and explain its importance..
- B. Introduction prepares us for the organization of the essay.
 - 2. Introduction needs to prepare readers for organization of essay – name or list the characters or concepts you will discuss in the essay in the order you will discuss them in your paper to guide the reader.
- C. Strong thesis statement can easily be found.
 - 3. Thesis needs to be clearly stated and easy to find. Make it the last sentence of the introduction.
- D. Strong topic sentence for this paragraph.
 - 4. This paragraph needs a topic sentence that covers the entire subject of the paragraph.
- E. Paragraph is clearly organized around a single claim or main idea.
 - 5. Paragraph addresses too many different ideas.
- F. Paragraph works effectively to support your thesis.
 - 6. Paragraph does not clearly work to support your thesis - clearly tie it to the thesis.
- G. Effective paragraph conclusion.
 - 7. This paragraph needs a conclusion statement of some sort - summarize or tie to thesis, and refrain from rephrasing topic sentence.
- H. Concluding paragraph effectively closes your paper.
 - 8. Concluding paragraph needs to summarize your thesis and draw together your paper to tie up your argument or thesis.
- I. Your concluding paragraph makes a strong thematic observation that extends your thesis.
 - 9. Enrich your conclusion by making a broader statement about the meaning, significance, or relevance of your topic.

CORRECT

- 10. Spelling error; use spell check or the computer, a dictionary, or a friend
- 11. Punctuation error
- 12. Capitalization error
- 13. Ineffective or incorrect word choice (diction)
- 14. Ineffective or incorrect sentence structure (syntax)
- 15. Verb tense issue — use the same verb tense throughout essay
- 16. Subject/verb agreement issue — use appropriate verb conjugation (as in “I am” not “I be”)
- 17. Indefinite reference – what does he, she, this, that, these, it, etc. refer to exactly?
- 18. Avoid using this, that, these, or it to refer to a large idea – restate the idea
- 19. Avoid absolute and over-generalized statements and words like all, every, each, any, and anyone
- 20. Unnecessary use of the first-person - avoid whenever possible

21. Avoid “we” and “you” and “talking” to your audience
22. Sentence fragment – you need a subject and verb (not behind a preposition or in a clause)
23. Run-on sentence - too long, or you must use a **comma with a conjunction** (or sometimes a ; or :, but these are more rare) to link complete ideas
24. Need a more clear transition between these two sentences/ideas
25. Reread this sentence – it reads awkwardly or incorrectly
26. Parallel structure problem - make each compared or listed item or idea in your sentence follow the same grammatical pattern
27. Antecedent and pronoun do not agree - if you use a singular antecedent (including everyone, everybody, anyone, someone, etc.), you must use a singular pronoun (he, she); if you use a plural antecedent, use they/them
28. Quotation is too short to be a block quote. Embed it in your paragraph.
29. This quote is too long to be in your paragraph. Shorten or start on the next line and indent all of it.
30. Need a citation here
31. Citation is incorrectly formatted
32. Citation must start with the first item in the Works Cited entry for this source (usually the author’s last name or the title)
33. Paper not correctly formatted (issue with font, font size, margins, or spacing)

COMPLETE AND THOROUGH:

- J. Meets page minimum
34. Does not meet page minimum (may also be due to formatting issues — see 33)
- K. Adequate and appropriate context provided for this quote
35. Quotation is not effectively embedded into your writing here; provide further context, and avoid using a quotation as a sentence by itself
- L. Example and/or quote provides effective support for your thesis or claim
36. Clearly and explicitly relate this part of your paper to your thesis or to the paragraph topic
- M. Claim/idea is thoroughly explained
37. Claim/idea is unclear and needs more explanation
- N. Claim/idea is thoroughly justified by evidence
38. Further explanation, evidence or examples of this idea/claim are needed
- O. Overall, your paper has adequate justification and explanation to prove your thesis
39. Thesis is not proven - your paper needs more relevant justification and explanation

CONTENT:

- P. You show a clear understanding of your topic
40. This does not represent a solid or complete understanding
- Q. You answered the prompt given
41. Your paper (or this part) does not adequately address the prompt - it may be strong but unrelated
- R. Your paper contains an appropriate mix of analysis and necessary background information
42. Your paper (or this part) consists of mostly summary or summary is disproportionate to analysis
- S. The analysis here (or in your paper) is insightful and original
43. The analysis here (or in your paper) is overly superficial and may overlook many of the complexities of your topic