**Topic Sentences**

Does each topic sentence convey an idea of your own or is it just summarizing the source? Own words, own ideas

**Body Paragraphs**

Do your body paragraphs end up covering all of the topics you previewed in your introduction? Do you get to them in order?

Does every topic sentence related back to the thesis and provide a smooth transition between the paragraphs?

Does every paragraph have ***one*** idea? Make sure there are not multiple ideas going on, else split into multiple paragraphs.

Look into AWR for ideas to transition between paragraphs.

Look at each paragraph, does each paragraph have at least one direct quotation? Are you bringing in both evidence and quotation in each paragraph?

Does every sentence in the paragraph work towards proving the topic sentence? Does it serve to develop the larger argument or is it just summary?

**Sources**

Confirm that each quotation is actually doing something for your argument? Supporting thesis and topic sentence? Is it relevant or was it just interesting at the time, make sure it truly serves the argument.

Find a better way to incorporate Cecilia O'Leary and Tony Platt

Does every paraphrase, summary, and quotation have an in-text citation?

(Author par. #) (Author #) (Author Qtd. In X)

Make sure every quotation is integrated into your sentence. i.e. Brown says, “something about 9/11.”

Make sure no dropped quotations or any that are just standing alone.

Is each quotation connected to each article/book it came from?

You can either put it into the paranethical citation or the sentence itself?

“As blank and blank suggest”

As so and so says in this particular book, “ “

As you are looking at your draft do you have a balance of source material and your own words?

Make sure that the paper is not completely made up of quotations, even if not made up from one source. Make sure there is a fair amount of commentary. Do not use block quotations!

Books are italicized

Articles are in quotations

Essays or scholarly are in quotations

Strategies for conclusion paragraphs:

You can use any of the introductory strategies

1) Anecdote – Think of a little story that nicely frames what your paper is about.

2) Scene – Begin by giving your readers a descriptive look at some revealing aspect of your topic.

3) Profile – Try a lead that introduces someone who is important to your topic.

4) Background – Begin by providing important and possibly surprising background information on your topic.

5) Quotation – Begin with a great quote that beautifully captures the question your paper will explore or the direction it will take.

6) Dialogue – Open with dialogue between people involved in your topic.

7) Question – Pointedly ask your readers the questions you asked that lunched your research or the questions your readers might raise about your topic.

8) Contrast – Try a lead that compares two apparently unlike things that highlight the problem or dilemma the paper will explore.

9) Announcement – A paper with a complex topic or focus may be well served by your simply stating in the beginning the main idea you’ll explore and what plan you’ll follow.

Discuss solutions to problems you have brought up in your research paper

Suggest new directions worth exploring. You’re not going to get into this into the paper but you can still say “it may be interesting to look into this or this.”

You might highlight a really interesting or consequence of your thesis.

If the Patriot Act is really an issue then what kind of consequences might we have?

You might end the story of your research, “I started with this, but came to a different conclusion at the end.”

Final illustration or sentence that really drives homes your point

For Chernobyl is there a place that still has the ramifications for this disaster.

However you start, ie a question, or a profile, finish the answer to the question or profile. Formaic way of concluding but offers unity.

Do not beat a dead horse, **DON’T** restate!

Your general reader is intelligent, you don’t need to tell them in the same way, do it in an interesting way.

Avoid “Thus”

Problem is that it leads into something general.

Avoid endings that don’t feel like endings.

It is one thing to suggest to offer possibilities for other research, don’t offer claims that would require research. Prompt them to think but not leave them hanging.

Make sure it adds something to your paper

**Introduction**

Does it move from an introduction to your thesis?

Your introduction should get more and more specific the longer you go in your intro paragraph.

Does it answer a specific question?

Is it clear what you are trying to prove in your paper?

Is it arguable?

**Is it in an active voice, not passive? Agent-action formula**

Is it wordy?

Is it as precise as it can be?

The tightest sentence or two sentences in your paper.

Does your introduction, if not your thesis, preview the direction of your paper?

Does it suggest/preview the order of how you will deal with your paper?

**Style and Usage**

Check for passive voice, do not have a lot of “being” verbs

The agent and action must be clear! Who is doing the action? If you can’t tell it’s probably passive.

Do you need any more internal transitions?

Does each sentence clearly follow the sentence previously?

If there is a “shift” then use transition words, check AWR for examples.

Are there any vague or awkward sentences? Any sentence you need to read 3 times, it’s obviously bad.

Don’t rely on spellcheck.

Diction

Do you have exactly the right words? DO NOT RELY ON THE THESAURUS

**Mechanic errors**

Sentence fragments

Run-on sentences

Comma splice (two independent clauses that could stand as their own when just joined with a comma) Use a period, comma with a conjunction (and, but, yet), or ;

Antecedent pronoun

Make sure it’s all singular... “not they.... one” make sure they agree