**Online Editing Activity**

**Comm 1100 Winter 2025**

Part 1: The Paragraph

You will be given a paragraph with various intentional errors in grammar, spelling, and clarity (see below). Your job is to identify and correct these errors to create a clear and concise paragraph.

Part 2: Gen AI to the Rescue!

You will utilize at least three Gen AI tools to help you analyze and refine your edited paragraph.

Here are some potential generative AI tools you can explore:

* Bing CoPilot
* Google Gemini
* ChatGPT
* Codebreakeredu.com/chat
* Phind

Part 3: Your Task

1. Identify the Errors: Read the provided paragraph carefully and underline any errors you find in grammar, spelling, punctuation, or clarity.
2. Edit and Correct: Make the necessary corrections to the paragraph, ensuring it is clear, concise, and error-free.
3. Gen AI Analysis: Choose three of the Gen AI tools listed above (or others approved by your instructor). Run your edited paragraph through each tool and analyze the suggestions provided.
4. Refine and Reflect: Based on the Gen AI suggestions, consider if there are further improvements you can make to your paragraph. Did the AI identify any errors you missed? Did it suggest alternative phrasings that enhance clarity or flow?

Part 4: Final Submission

Submit the following:

* The corrected paragraph plus a list of the errors found.
* A five (5) sentence reflection on how the generative AI tools helped improve the paragraph. Which generative AI tools did you use? Did the generative AI tools helped you improve the paragraph? Did the generative AI tools identify any errors you missed? Did any tools suggest alternative phrasings that enhance clarity or flow?
* A five (5) sentence reflection on your experience using generative AI for editing written work. Were any challenges you faced while using the Gen AI tools or in the editing process? Did you need to revise or edit your prompts?

Rubric (Maximum 9 marks):

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 3 Marks | 2 Marks | 1 Mark | 0 Marks |
| Corrected paragraph; Grammar errors identified | Corrected paragraph submitted; 10 grammar errors correctly identified | Corrected paragraph submitted; 5-9 grammar errors correctly identified | Corrected paragraph submitted; 1-4 grammar errors correctly identified | No corrected paragraph submitted or no grammar marks correctly identified |
| First reflective question | Answer was at least five (5) grammatically correct sentences | Answer was four (4) grammatically correct sentences | Answer was three (3) grammatically correct sentences | Answer was two (2) or fewer grammatically correct sentences |
| Second reflective question | Answer was at least five (5) grammatically correct sentences | Answer was four (4) grammatically correct sentences | Answer was three (3) grammatically correct sentences | Answer was two (2) or fewer grammatically correct sentences |

# Fixing The Error-Filled Paragraph

Error-filled Paragraph:

Attending class at; Durham College is very important for several reasons. First, it ensures that students are **recieving**the full benefit of the course material. Missing classes can lead to gaps in knowledge which can **affect** overall performance. **Secondly,** being Present in class allows students to participate in discussions and ask question’s, which can enhance there understanding of the subject. Additionally, regular attendance shows commitment and dedication, which is qualities that employers look four. **Attending class** also a gooder opportunity, to **network**with **peers and instructors** which can be beneficial **in future**. Finally, some courses has **in-process marks**, so attending class can directly impact **you’re** grade. **Therefore, it’s** crucial to make attending class a priority.

Copy/Paste Corrected Paragraph below:

Attending class at Durham College is very important for several reasons. First, it ensures that students are **receiving**the full benefit of the course material. Missing classes can lead to gaps in knowledge which can **affect** overall performance. **Secondly,** being present in class allows students to participate in discussions and ask questions, which can enhance their understanding of the subject. Additionally, regular attendance shows commitment and dedication, which are qualities that employers look for. **Attending class** is also a good opportunity to **network**with **peers and instructors,** which can be beneficial **in the future**. Finally, some courses have **in-process marks**, so attending class can directly impact **their** grade. **Therefore, it’s** crucial to make attending class a priority.

Errors/Corrections:

1. Error: The semi-colon in the first sentence.

1. Correction: Remove the semi-colon.

2. Error: Misspelled “receiving” as “recieving” in the second sentence.

2. Correction: It should be spelled correctly as “receiving”

3. Error: “Present” is capitalized in the 4th sentence.

3. Correction: “present” should not be capitalized.

4. Error: “question’s” with an illegal apostrophe

4. Correction: “questions” without an apostrophe because it’s describing plural questions, not indicating that the question has ownership over something.

5. Error: Used the wrong “Their/There”

5. Correction: It should be “their” not “there”.

6. Error: Used the singular “is” when referring to multiple list items.

6. Correction: Should use “are”, because of the reference to both commitment and dedication.

7. Error: Used the word “four” instead of “for”

7. Correction: Should use “for”

8. Error: Omitted the word “is” before “also”

8: Correction: Should include “is” so that the sentence is grammatically correct and clear

9. Error: Using the word “gooder”

9. Correction: Don’t use the word gooder. Use the word “good” or “better”.

10. Error: Missing a comma in the “Attending class…” sentence.

10. Correction: Add a comma before “which”.

11. Error: missing the word “the” in “in future”

11. Correction: Add the word “the” for clarity and specificity.

12. Error: Uses the singular “has” in the second-to-last sentence.

12. Correction: Use the plural “have”, because there is more than one course being discussed.

13. Error: Uses “You’re” in the second-to-last sentence, which is the wrong contraction and also uses the wrong perspective.

13. Correction: Use “your”, because it indicates the grade belongs to “you”. Ideally, it would say “them”, because the paragraph begins in the third person perspective but shifts into second person.

# Generative AI prompts and output:

**Prompt for all the Generative AI tools:** Here is my paragraph. Please provide me with suggestions to correct mistakes, improve the phrasing, keep the tone direct, while staying succinct. [included the paragraph in quotes.]

### ChatGPT

**Response**: Here are my suggestions to improve clarity, conciseness, and directness while maintaining a strong and professional tone:

1. **Refine the opening sentence** – Remove “very important” and replace it with a stronger, more direct phrase.

2. **Improve flow and avoid redundancy** – “Ensures that students are receiving the full benefit” can be more direct.

3. **Tighten phrasing** – Combine ideas where possible to make the paragraph more concise.

4. **Clarify the impact on grades** – The sentence about “in-process marks” could be clearer.

5. **Strengthen the conclusion** – Avoid vague phrases like “make attending class a priority” and use a more assertive closing.

**Revised Paragraph:**

**“Attending class at Durham College is essential for academic success. It ensures students fully grasp the course material, preventing knowledge gaps that could affect performance. Being present also allows for active participation in discussions and direct engagement with instructors, enhancing understanding. Regular attendance demonstrates commitment—an important trait employers value—and provides networking opportunities with peers and faculty. Additionally, some courses award in-process marks, meaning attendance directly impacts grades. For these reasons, making class attendance a habit is key to both academic and professional growth.”**

This version keeps your points intact while improving flow, precision, and impact. Let me know if you’d like any further refinements!

### Microsoft Copilot

**Output:**

Your paragraph is clear and well-organized! Here are some suggestions to make it more concise and direct:

"Attending class at Durham College is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, it ensures students fully benefit from the course material. Missing classes can create knowledge gaps that affect performance. Secondly, being present allows students to participate in discussions and ask questions, enhancing their understanding. Additionally, regular attendance demonstrates commitment and dedication—qualities valued by employers. It also offers networking opportunities with peers and instructors, which can be beneficial in the future. Lastly, some courses include in-process marks, so attending class can directly impact grades. Therefore, prioritizing class attendance is essential."

I made some slight adjustments to make it more succinct and maintain a direct tone. I hope this helps!

### DeepSeek:

**Output:**

Your paragraph is clear and well-structured, but here are some suggestions to refine it further for conciseness, directness, and improved phrasing:

Attending classes at Durham College is crucial for several reasons. First, it ensures students fully benefit from the course material, as missing classes can create knowledge gaps that harm overall performance. Second, being present allows students to engage in discussions, ask questions, and deepen their understanding of the subject. Regular attendance also demonstrates commitment and dedication—qualities valued by employers. Additionally, classes provide opportunities to network with peers and instructors, which can be valuable for future career prospects. Finally, since some courses include participation-based grades, attending class can directly impact academic success. For these reasons, prioritizing attendance is essential.

This version tightens the phrasing, removes redundancy, and maintains a direct tone while preserving all key points.

# Reflection Answers:

* A five (5) sentence reflection on how the generative AI tools helped improve the paragraph. Which generative AI tools did you use? Did the generative AI tools helped you improve the paragraph? Did the generative AI tools identify any errors you missed? Did any tools suggest alternative phrasings that enhance clarity or flow?
* A five (5) sentence reflection on your experience using generative AI for editing written work. Were any challenges you faced while using the Gen AI tools or in the editing process? Did you need to revise or edit your prompts?

**Q1) Which generative AI tools did you use? Did the generative AI tools helped you improve the paragraph? Did the generative AI tools identify any errors you missed? Did any tools suggest alternative phrasings that enhance clarity or flow?**

I used ChatGPT, Copilot, and DeepSeek. I didn’t use any of their suggested edits in the end result, because I didn’t care to and there was no real benefit to using their words instead of mine in this context. The suggestions were fine, but there’s really no reason I can’t use my own brain for this task, and the risks of using AI in an academic context are so scary, that I don’t think using AI is worth the risk. I see the point of the assignment though and would probably benefit from exposure to these tools more, if I didn’t have experience with AI already. Copilot and DeepSeek both reworked the paragraph but didn’t break the suggestions down for me the way ChatGPT did. I like ChatGPT because I can define a ruleset that it “remembers” for every conversation, so my ChatGPT has been trained to know the kind of editing output I prefer. But Copilot and DeepSeek are giving me basic surface level stuff that I’m not happy with, and it would take way more time and emotional bandwidth than it’s worth to fiddle with the prompt until it gives me something I’m satisfied with. The paragraphs were changed in significant enough ways that I can’t really tell at a glance whether the “errors” were addressed or just reworked into the new output. It takes a lot more effort to compare the original to the new, when there’s edit history just a summary of changes in the output that could be a total lie. I do think that they offer good options for clarity and flow between sentences though. That’s something AI could help me improve, but it does take effort and time and energy to set up without getting overwhelmed.

**Q2) Reflect on your experience using generative AI for editing written work. Were any challenges you faced while using the Gen AI tools or in the editing process? Did you need to revise or edit your prompts?**

The challenge I faced was keeping track of three separate outputs and ensuring I organized the information well in this document. It’s a lot smoother when I can just write without having to worry about whether I’m using, representing, and incorporating the AI output appropriately into my content. Keeping things simple helps my writing and editing process, and using AI can work against that by overwhelming me with too many similar options. I didn’t revise my prompt because I figured the point of this part of the assignment was to show how the same prompt can result in different outputs from different tools, but what strikes me is how similar the Copilot and DeepSeek answers were to each other.