**Devil’s Advocate Revising Checklist…**

**How can I make my paper better?**

* **Does my paper have an interesting LEAD? Would I find it interesting if I read it myself? Is it intriguing enough to make me want to continue reading?**
* **Does my introduction have a clear thesis statement that BOTH A) answers the questions AND B) informs the reader of the organization / main points of my essay?**
* **Do I have transitional sentences at the beginning of each body paragraph? (NOT just a transition word thrown at the beginning of the paragraph, but rather a transitional sentence that forms a bridge between the two ideas)**
* **Do I also use transition words within the paragraph itself to help support the logical sequencing of ideas?**
* **Do I have a clear TOPIC SENTENCE at the beginning of each body paragraph that can house everything I talk about in the rest of the paragraph?**
* **Have I checked each sentence in each paragraph, making sure that each relates back to the topic sentence and does not get off topic?**
* **Does my conclusion do more than restate the main idea? Do I give a ‘so what now’ or a ‘call to action’? Do I avoid bringing up any new information in the conclusion?**
* **Have a proofread for spelling errors?**
* **Have I avoided using 1st person point-of–view?**
* **Have I avoided using any text-messaging language such as LOL and u and btw?**
* **Have I varied my sentence types to make my writing appealing: simple, compound, complex, compound-complex…declarative, imperative, interrogative, exclamatory?**
* **Did I vary the kinds of punctuation used? For example, did I branch out and try using a semi-colon at least once when joining two independent clauses in lieu of using a comma and a conjunction?**
* **Did I attempt to make my writing more interesting by making a comparison in an example, specifically by including figurative language?**
* **Did I use present tense verbs throughout my essay? I need to keep my verb tense consistent throughout.**
* **Did I avoid writing run-on sentences? Remember: Forgetting that comma before the conjunction when joining two independent clauses creates a run-on sentence.**
* **Did I check and double-check for comma errors?**
* **Did I elaborate as much as I could? All quotes should have commentary after them.**
* **Did I include at least 1 EMBEDDED quote per body paragraph?**
* **Do my quotes have citations? Check to make sure you have all citations at the end of the sentence no matter where the quote is located (so it does not interrupt the flow of the reading).**
* **Remember to check how your citations are done. Citations for online sources look different than our book sources. Ask if you are not sure!**
* **Did I include a Works Cited page?**
* **Did I indent each paragraph? Remember: No skipping lines between paragraphs, only indenting.**
* **What higher-level vocabulary could you use? Are there SAT words you could use in place of lower-level vocabulary you have included in your paper? How can you make your writing more sophisticated? Are there words you have repeated over and over? Can you find synonyms for these words so you do not sound redundant?**
* **Have you avoided being offensive in your writing? Remember this adage: “You catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar.” You aren’t going to win anyone over on your thoughts if you are using offensive commentary, no matter how good your research / points may be. Diplomacy works wonders.**
* **Have you used the word ‘VERY’ in your writing? If so, delete it, and replace it with another word.**

**ie: very old = archaic**