**Essay Revising Checklist …**

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

* Does your intro have a good lead?
* Does your intro have a clear thesis answering the question?
* Are there transition sentences at the beginning of each body paragraph (not just a transition word at the beginning of the paragraph)? Is there a logical connection between ideas? Do you also use transition words within the paragraph itself?
* Does each body paragraph have a clear topic sentence that can house everything you talk about in the rest of the paragraph?
* Check each sentence in the paragraph and make sure it relates back to your topic sentence!!!!
* Does your conclusion do MORE than restate the main idea? Do you give a SO WHAT? Do you avoid bringing up any new information?
* Did you proofread for spelling errors?
* Did you avoid text-messaging language and use proper English?
* Did you vary your sentence types? (simple, compound, complex, compound-complex…declarative, imperative, interrogative, exclamatory)
* Did you vary the kinds of punctuation used? For example, use a semi-colon at least once when joining two complete thoughts.
* Did you include any figurative language? Is there a place where you could make a good comparison?
* Did you use present tense verbs throughout the essay? Check all verbs! Keep verb tense consistent!
* Did you avoid using first person point of view?
* Did you avoid using run-on sentences?
* Did you check for comma errors?
* Did you elaborate as much as you could? All quotes should have discussion after them.
* Did you indent your paragraphs? Remember, indent when typing your final draft. No skipping lines between paragraphs!
* Did you stay on topic?
* Do you have a minimum of 2 quotes per body paragraph?
* Have you embedded all quotations?
* Check to make sure you have parenthetical citation for all quotations.
* 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).
* 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? You can also easily look up a word and replace it with a better synonym.
* Have you repeated the same word over and over? Or – have you started many of your sentences with the same words over and over again? Check for this. If you have done this, you should go back and re-work the order of your writing and flip words around so you don’t have redundancy.