

**Essay Rules**

1. Avoid words which lack sophistication (ALL slang or text abbreviations).

Examples: cuz, cause, could of, wanna, gonna, nice, really, got, a lot, very, till, great, b/c, 2, k, lol, rotfl, bff, etc.)

1. Vary sentence beginnings (N2SSWTSW per paragraph)

No 2 Sentences Start With The Same Word

1. Vary sentence structure throughout the essay –

Use a variety of sentences: simple, compound, complex, compound-complex.

Sophisticated writers do this; they also vary punctuation and use colons and semi-colons when appropriate.

1. Avoid beginning sentences with coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS).

For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So

1. No Contractions.

Examples: isn’t, don’t, can’t, won’t

1. Avoid ending sentences with prepositions.

Examples: with, to, for, from, in, at, on, by, of

1. ALWAYS use MLA citation when incorporating quotes for text evidence.

Example: “Whatever makes him sick is likely to reveal something about him on the outside- if you look closely enough” (Foster 97). This is correct parenthetical citation (author’s last name and page number where the quote is found).

1. Underline (or italicize if typing) the titles of books and plays. Put quotes around the titles of shorts stories and poetry.

9. Spell out all numbers less than one hundred.

Example: three, fifteen, twenty-four, seventy-three

1. When writing about literature, write in the PRESENT tense.

Make sure the verb tense is consistent throughout the paper.

1. Avoid using personal pronouns.
2. All introductions should have 2 things: attention getter and thesis statement
3. Use transition words and phrases.

These should be between paragraphs and throughout each paragraph to help the writing flow. Examples of words that are transitions: To begin, next, in addition, finally

1. Learn and use a new vocabulary word in each paper you write! Use a thesaurus to find a more sophisticated word.