Top 10 Issues What Prevents

an 'A' Paper

Lack of synthesis within paper



Synthesis is vital for academic writing. These papers combine three elements in a fashion which defends students' main observations. As a result, all paragraphs must show how your connections work and how they compare with one another. In other words, you must demonstrate how the evidence works.

- Stronger transitions help guide readers through the analysis process
- · Keeping a sense of balanced discussions strengthens theories

Use of questions

Make firm declarative statements instead of asking questions. The overuse of hypothetical questions results in obvious formulaic or predictable writing patterns.

Use of FANBOYS

6.

When beginning a sentence, avoid words such as:

for, and, no/nor, but, or, yet/yes

These words are intended to connect other words, phrases, and clauses.

Contractions

3.

Avoid the use of any contracted word; these are informal shortcuts:

> don't, can't, won't, I'd, I'll, I'm, shouldn't, couldn't, we'll, she'll, she'd, he'd, hasn't, isn't, etc.

Use of colloquial phrases or clichés

Specifically, avoid using the phrase "a lot," which can be replaced with one of the following words:

> many, most, much, extreme, upmost, ultimate, supreme, maximum, paramount

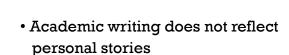
Lack of structure within paragraphs

All academic paragraphs must follow the provided formula:

- 1. Topic Sentence
- 2. Confirmation of Topic (SES)
- 3. Analysis of Topic
- 4. Quotation / Specific Evidence
- 5. Review of Evidence
- 6. Deductive Conclusion

Overuse of pronouns

In academic papers, writers must show very specific evidence and avoid vague language. Remember, pronouns are shortcuts which can be misleading.



- To maintain a strong, formal tone research papers avoid personalized pronouns such as:
 - I, me, myself, we, our, ourselves, us
- Never talk directly to the audience. Avoid second person pronouns:

you, yours, yourself

 Likewise, avoid vague use of demonstrative pronouns and adjectives such as:

this, that, those, these, it

Ending sentences with prepositions

"Where are you at?"

"What are you looking at?"

"These types of grammatical mistakes I cannot help you with."

10.

Improper use of in-text citations

Review MLA expectations to properly indicate resources, and as well, document signal phrases correctly.

Presentation of proper nouns and all titles of literary works:

Italicize	"Quotation Marks"
• stand-alone projects compromised of many components	• parts of a larger work
novels, anthologies, manuscripts	short stories
collections of poetry	poems
newspapers, magazines, journals	articles
web sites	web pages
epics	sonnets, haiku, ballads, riddle poems
operas, plays, movie scripts	songs, one-act plays, movie scenes
television programs (Twilight Zone)	television episodes ("Pilot")
paintings, sculptures	photographs