

## Camelot English Department Writing

Your writing will be graded on the following:

1. CLARITY and ORGANIZATION – Does your meaning make sense? Can we follow your thoughts?
2. CORRECTNESS - Use complete sentences and correct grammar and spelling
3. COMPLETENESS and THOROUGHNESS – Be thorough in your answers – JUSTIFY and EXPLAIN
4. CONTENT – Does your essay reflect that you understand the topic

### Correction and Commendation Guide

The numbers below will replace some comments usually made on graded papers. Use the guide to note corrections necessary to improve your writing generally and this paper particularly; and note the successes you have had in the writing of the paper and continue to practice those stylistic patterns.

#### **CLARITY AND ORGANIZATION:**

- A. Introduction develops a strong and interesting concept for further analysis.
  1. Introduction needs to develop the concept you wish to discuss more completely. Give more emphasis to the background of your topic and why it is important.
- B. Introduction prepares us for the organization of the essay.
  2. Introduction does not introduce the organization of the essay and needs to do so – name the characters and concepts you will discuss in the essay and provide a thesis map that will guide your reader through your paper.
- C. Thesis works well making an intelligent and interesting argument and can easily be found.
  3. Thesis is weak or I can't find it; this critical statement does not build a clear argument.
- D. Strong topic sentence.
  4. Assert a clear idea at the beginning of the paragraph as part of the topic sentence. Make it a sharp and precise statement of the issue you will provide in this paragraph. The whole paragraph should relate to this umbrella sentence.
- E. Paragraph is clearly organized around a single claim or main idea.
  5. Paragraph is unfocused, addressing too many different ideas or no particular idea at all.
- F. Paragraph works effectively to support your thesis.
  6. Paragraph does not clearly work to support your thesis - clearly tie it to the thesis.
- G. Effective paragraph conclusion.
  7. Close paragraph with an idea that draws together what this paragraph is about, do not simply rephrase the topic sentence but draw a large idea that is a logical extension of the points made.
- H. Concluding paragraph effectively closes your paper; you successfully draw together the assertions and examples made in your paper to demonstrate your thesis.
  8. Concluding paragraph is weak and therefore ineffective. It does not draw together your paper to tie up your argument or thesis.
- I. Your concluding paragraph makes a strong thematic observation.
  9. Enrich your thematic statement; connect your thesis to a broader statement about the meaning, significance, or relevance of your topic.

## **CORRECT**

10. Spelling error; use spell check or the computer, a dictionary, or a friend
11. Punctuation error
12. Capitalization error
13. Ineffective or incorrect word choice (diction)
14. Ineffective incorrect sentence structure (syntax); reorganize so the meaning is easier to determine
15. Verb tense issue — use the same verb tense throughout essay
16. Subject/verb agreement issue — use appropriate verb conjugation (as in “I am” not “I be”)
17. Indefinite reference – I cannot tell what he, she, this, that, these, it, etc. refer to exactly
18. Do not use this, that, these, or it to refer to a large idea – you must restate the idea
19. Avoid absolute statements and words like all, every, each, any, and anyone
20. Unnecessary use of the first-person - avoid whenever possible
21. Avoid “we” and “you” and “talking” to your audience
22. Sentence fragment – learn to recognize – you need a subject and verb not behind a preposition
23. Run-on sentence - you must use a colon, semicolon, or comma with a conjunction to link complete ideas
24. Need a more clear transition between these two sentences/ideas
25. Reread this sentence – it does not work or reads awkwardly
26. Quotation is not effectively embedded into your writing here; provide further context or analysis, and do not use a quotation as a sentence by itself
27. Quotation is too short to be a block quote. Embed it in your paragraph.
28. This quote is too long to be in your paragraph. Shorten or start on the next line and indent all of it.
29. Need a citation here
30. Citation is incorrectly formatted
31. Citation must start with the first item in the Works Cited
32. Paper not correctly formatted (issue with font, margins, or spacing)

## **COMPLETE AND THOROUGH:**

- J. Meets page minimum
33. Does not meet page minimum (may also be due to formatting issues — see 32)
- K. Claim/idea is thoroughly explained and sufficiently elaborated.
34. Claim/idea requires further explanation or elaboration; expand further = UNCLEAR
- L. Claim/idea is thoroughly justified by evidence and analysis.
35. Claim/idea not thoroughly justified. Further support is necessary = NEED MORE EXPLANATION/EVIDENCE/EXAMPLES
- M. Example/quote is well analyzed, providing effective support to your claim
36. Explain how this example or quote makes your point exactly – RELATE TO THESIS (or paragraph topic)
- N. Your evidence adequately supports your assertion(s) in this paragraph; nice choices and analyses
37. Further evidence and examples will help to prove this point = NEED ANOTHER EXAMPLE
- O. Overall, your paper has adequate justification and explanation to prove your thesis
38. Thesis is not proven - your paper needs more relevant justification and explanation.

## **CONTENT:**

- P. You show a clear understanding of your topic
39. This does not represent a solid or complete understanding
- Q. The ideas in your paper respond appropriately to the prompt
40. Your paper (or this part) does not adequately address the prompt - it may be strong but unrelated
- R. Your paper contains an appropriate mix of analysis and necessary background information
41. Your paper (or this part) consists of mostly summary or summary is disproportionate to analysis
- S. The analysis here (or in your paper) is insightful and original
42. The analysis here (or in your paper) is overly superficial and may overlook many of the complexities of your topic