Final Paper Common Errors & Checklist

Common Errors

Thesis/Evidence/Analysis

1. *Historical Primary Source* - Many essays were missing one in the 2nd paragraph
2. *First sentence analysis* - equation! Matching the model sentences, etc.
3. *If you are still not meeting standard on thesis statement*s - Look at the notebook for thesis example. For many of you it is because you do not have the specific literature in the “How” (as shown in the example)
4. *Evidence* should be from the time period on the topic sheet.

Formatting/MLA

1. Citation errors - “awesome quote” (Last).
2. Word Count - does not include the works cited.
3. Remember! Your in-text citations should match the first thing on the works cited. Please verify that they are formatted and cited correctly so you do not lose points.

Language Stuff

1. Lowercase integrated quote (make the quote a part of the sentence)
2. Ambiguous “this”
   1. crtl+F “this” = how many times to you use this without saying what “this” is. Find a way to describe and specify.
3. Sentence beginning variety + transitions
   1. Take a look at the beginnings of sentences. Read them out loud. Do they sound similar? Mostly starting with the same word (often “the” or “this) --> change it up!
4. Tense Matters!
   1. Past tense = history. *Everything happened in the past.*
   2. Present Tense = Fiction Literature. *The characters are immortal because they are fictionalized.*
   3. Use Past tense for the majority of this essay *except* when analyzing the literary primary source *if* it’s fiction.
5. *Italicize* or “Quote” Titles -
   1. Short poems, articles, speeches, chapters, songs, - “Quotation Marks”
   2. Long Poems (*i.e. odes*), books, paintings - *Italicize*

***Continue on to the next page for your checklist!***

Checklist   
(Presented in the same order of the essay)

* Intro Paragraph
  + **H**ook
  + **I**ntroduce Topic - Bridge & Summary
  + **T**hesis
* Thesis
  + How - Literature
  + What - Revolution
  + So What - Impact
* First Body Paragraph
  + Context
  + Secondary Sources
* Second Body Paragraph
  + Historical Primary Source
  + Analyzing *language* (ex. Rhetoric, word choice)
* Third Body Paragraph
  + Literary Primary Source
  + Analyzing *language* (ex. Smiles, word choice, metaphor, personification, imagery...)
* Concluding Paragraph
  + **R**estate the Thesis
  + **A**nswer the So What
  + final **T**hought/**S**uper so what
* Works Cited
  + Alphabetical Order
  + In-text citations match the first portion of the citation
* Read your paper out loud!!!