

General Writing Pointers:

(Originally provided for general comments for essays turned in past the due date time, and not receiving scrutinized feedback)

- If your grade is significantly lower than you expected, it is likely that you did not thoroughly analyze your quotations (beyond summarizing general points) and/or focus on tone. (For your new paper, make sure you focus on how effective Schwartzberg is, and how his structure proves this!)
- Make sure to avoid generic you's, personal pronouns ("I", "my," "we"), and contractions (can't, wouldn't, shouldn't, etc.).
- Make sure verbs are in present tense ("She says" instead of "she said" and the like).
- If read out loud, does your paper sound choppy? (Sentence length and style should vary, and you should begin sentences with varied words.)
- Make sure, always, always, always that your commentary (what comes after your quotes) points back to your major thesis statement (TS/ first sentence) idea.
- Use effective transitions to connect ideas (briefly alluding to previously mentioned ideas in the next sentences, and words like additionally, therefore, for example, this, moreover, in contrast, etc.).
- Avoid the phrase "In conclusion", "In summary," or anything similar to begin your last sentence.
- Avoid posing questions in your writing. The questions we created in class were only intended to help you form your commentary by answering them.
- Proofread at least twice through, once silently, and once whisper read. What grammar errors, awkward wording, or confusion do you notice? This should be changed.