

RESEARCH PAPER

SELF-EVALUATION CHECKLIST

TITLE & HOOK

I have an edgy title (If you don't have an edgy title, make one right now!)

Does the paper have a hook? It may be a quote, and impactful sentence, strong statement, or interesting attention grabber.

- Yes, my hook is absolute gold
- Yes, I have the okayest hook
- My hook is garbage
- I have no hook

GRAMMAR & MECHANICS

- Titles of books, magazines, films, and plays are italicized.
- Titles of articles are in quotation marks.
- Verb tenses are correct and consistent.
- Check commonly confused words:
they're/their/there your/you're its/it's to/too/two
- To my knowledge, misspelled words have been corrected.
- Circle any words that are repeated unnecessarily. (Go back later and fix it).
- Check for comma splices. (Ctrl+F commas)

THESIS & TOPIC SENTENCES

Highlight your thesis and topic sentences.

Do your topic sentences reflect your actual points?

- Yes
- No
- Idk Explain: _____

Do your topic sentences connect back to the thesis in some way?

- Yes
- No
- Idk Explain: _____

ORGANIZATION, STRUCTURE, & DEVELOPMENT

I have checked my paragraph lengths and marked paragraphs that are too short or too long.

Does your essay flow? Do your points flow from paragraph to paragraph in a clear, logical way? Is there a logical progression of thought? Do you avoid random transitions?

- The paper is well-organized and the flow of thoughts is natural
- The paper is generally okay, but needs some work
- The points feel random and/or lack connection and cohesion

Did you include background information in your paper?

- Yes
- No

How much background information are you including? How is it integrated? For example, do you have a little bit in the intro? Do you have a separate paragraph? Where is that paragraph placed? Or are you incorporating background info in smaller pieces throughout the essay?

WRITING STYLE: DICTION, CLARITY, TONE, VOICE

- My writing is generally clear and focused.
- I marked areas, if any, that are unclear, awkward, or confusing.
- I marked areas, if any, that were too informal or conversational in tone and word choice.
- I have checked my paper for 1st person.
- I have checked my paper for 2nd person and ELIMINATED THE ENEMY.
- There are no contractions (i.e. don't, can't, won't, etc.) [Ctrl+F apostrophes]
- Rate the style of the paper (uses sophisticated diction and sentence structure)
 - Excellent - sophisticated and interesting writing style, strong vocabulary
 - Really good, but needs some polishing
 - Pretty good, needs work
 - Weak, too simple

MLA

- I have an MLA heading on the first page and I checked that it is correct, especially the date.
- I have the page numbers correctly formatted according to MLA.
- Parenthetical citations follow the format of Author's last name page number. Ex: (Steinbeck 34).
- Quotes longer than 4 lines are in block quotes (indented, no quotation marks, punctuation before parenthesis)
- My paper is double spaced
- My paper is in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font
- Correct MLA margins and spacing

SOURCES

- I have all my sources, AND I have incorporated direct quotes in my paper.
- I have all my sources, but I haven't quoted all of them, yet.
- I do not have all my sources, yet.
- I have checked for quote dumps.

WORKS CITED PAGE

- My Works Cited page is formatted correctly
- I'm still working on my Works Cited page
- I have not yet started my Works Cited page

REFLECTION

How do you feel about the status of your paper? How do you plan to revise and improve your paper?