



Essay Checklist:

Burning Questions to Ask Before Typing the Final Draft

Handout courtesy of Sally Wallace and Lori Williams

- Does your thesis statement arouse expectations that are satisfied by the rest of the essay?
- Does paragraph #2 relate to paragraph #1? Does paragraph #3 relate to paragraphs #2 and #1? Check the relationship of each paragraph to the one that comes before it and to the thesis statement.
- Have you given enough details to support your thesis statement?
- Have you resisted the urge to do whatever your computer suggests for spelling and punctuation, no matter how weird it seems? (The spell checker merely makes sure that a word you have written exists, not that it's a word you really want.)
- Are you sure of the meaning of each word you have written?
- Is each sentence free of unnecessary repetition and of unnecessary words?
- Is each sentence absolutely clear?
- Is each sentence grammatically correct?
- Are you sure of the reason for each point of punctuation you have used?
- Have you read your essay aloud at least once to catch typos and missing or repeated words?
- Has someone read your essay aloud with you at least once to catch typos and missing or repeated words?
- Are you happy with your concluding paragraph? Does it bring the entire essay to a neat, satisfying close?