1. **Be sure your paper is in MLA format.** You need your left header on the first page and your last name/page number header on the top right of each page. Times New Roman 12. Double spaced. 1 inch margins.
2. **You’re missing a title.**
3. **Try a different hook.** Use a hook that is interesting, that grabs the reader’s attention, and that makes the reader want to keep reading. Avoid using quotes for this paper.
4. **You’re missing some background info.** Add adequate background information to be sure you are setting up the paper in your introduction paragraph.
5. **Your thesis could be a bit more direct and clear.** Does this thesis adequately describe/set up the entire paper? Make sure your thesis is only one sentence. If you don’t have a three-point thesis, you might try it. It seems to make the topic sentences a little easier. As it is, your thesis is not setting up your paper as best as it could and does not encompass the whole main idea of your paper.
6. **Revise your topic sentence.** Does this topic sentence set up this paragraph and describe the entire main idea? Be sure your topic sentence isn’t too broad or too vague or too narrow. Choose a thought that is going to describe what that paragraph is about. As it is, this particular topic sentence doesn’t set this paragraph up as best as it could.
7. **You seem to have gotten a little off track here.** Be sure each paragraph has only one main idea and doesn’t stray from the main idea of that paragraph.
8. **See if you can organize your paragraphs in a better way.** As they are, your paragraphs aren’t organized as best as they could be. If your thoughts could go chronologically, try ordering them that way. Be careful, though: don’t tell a story and just indent three times. If you learned three lessons, try ordering your paragraphs by lesson. Think of some logical way you could organize your paragraphs.
9. **Revise your conclusion paragraph.** Remember to be sure you are summarizing all your points, restating your thesis, and telling the reader why this experience matters.
10. **Remember not to use second person.** First person is fine, and even third, for this paper, but do NOT use second person. On your final draft, I will dock you one point for every YOU I find!
11. **This paragraph is a little lengthy.** Is there something you can cut out of this paragraph? What information do you not need? See where you can cut and trim.
12. **Don’t start a sentence with a conjunction.** We can break the whole don’t-end-a-sentence-with-a-preposition rule now—really, who cares? The rule we can’t break is starting a sentence with a conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).
13. **Review comma and semicolon rules.** If you have questions, come chat with me, but just in general, review your comma and semicolon rules. It seems you have several mistakes with these.
14. **This is really vague—**what details can you add here? Descriptions of a person, place, event? Think of a better way to describe this and eliminate the vagueness.
15. **Avoid clichés.** While it may be true or describe your thoughts, try to put what you’re trying to say into, well, your own words—not the words of a million other people.
16. **This paragraph is too short.** While we said a paragraph must have at least 5 sentences, I think we can do better than that. Let’s aim for more like 7-9 sentence paragraphs. You absolutely cannot develop a paragraph in under five sentences.
17. **Spell out numbers below one hundred.** If a number is below one hundred, spell it out. Twenty-seven, eighty-five, sixteen, two, and so on. When you get to 101, you can use numbers. Years, such as 2014, are written as numbers. If, however, you are using two hundred, three hundred, or any other number that can be said in two words, you spell that as well. The important rule to remember, though, is below one hundred, spell it out.