

THESIS AND REVISION CHECKLIST

THE THESIS STATEMENT

- ✓ The thesis statement **narrows your subject** to a single, central idea that you want readers to gain from your essay.
- ✓ It **claims something specific and significant** about your subject, a claim that requires support.
- ✓ It **conveys your purpose**, your reason for writing.
- ✓ It often concisely **previews the arrangement of ideas** in your essay to follow.

DRAFTING & REVISION OF THE THESIS STATEMENT

- ✓ Does the statement make a concise but arguable **claim** about your subject (rather than simply stating a known fact about it)?
- ✓ Does the statement clearly provide, in its overview of supporting details alongside its arguable claim, a **“roadmap”** of the specific organization and focus in the essay to follow?
- ✓ Is the claim **limited** to a single specific idea, concept, or theory about the work in question – is the claim either too broad, or not broad enough?
- ✓ Is the statement **unified**, enough so that its parts clearly relate to each other – are facts linked and explained sufficiently?
- ✓ Does the statement convey your **purpose** as a writer – is it absolutely clear to the reader why you are telling us the thing that you are telling us?

UNITY & COHERENCE

- ✓ Do the essay’s topic sentences relate directly to the thesis statement – is each section relevant to the main idea of the essay?
- ✓ Do the details in each section or body paragraph **directly** support their topic sentences?
- ✓ Do the essays main supporting points follow a clear sequence?
- ✓ Are the individual parts or sections of the essay logically connected, using appropriate transitions and smooth linking language?

EDITING CHECKLIST

SENTENCES

- ✓ Does every sentence have a main subject and a verb?
- ✓ Do all subjects and verbs agree in number?
- ✓ Do all pronouns agree with their nouns in number and gender?
- ✓ Are modifiers as close as possible to the actual words they modify?

PUNCTUATION & MECHANICS

- ✓ Are sentences punctuated correctly – are colons, semicolons, commas and periods used appropriately?
- ✓ Are words capitalized properly?

WORD CHOICE & SPELLING

- ✓ Are words used correctly, and are they spelled correctly?

TONE

- ✓ How appropriate is the essay's tone for the purpose, topic, and intended readers?
- ✓ Does the essay title accurately reflect the essay's content and purpose? Is it interesting?
- ✓ How – and how well – does the introduction engage and focus your reader's attention on your thesis argument?
- ✓ How effective is the conclusion in providing a sense of closure and completion to the essay discussion?