

Essay Revisions

Congrats on your argumentative checkpoint essays. They are getting better! After reviewing your scores, it seems that there are some easy ways to further improve them. The following are “cheat codes” for gaming the computer-graded essays:

- ★ Include key words from the prompt. Do this in your thesis & your claims.
- ★ Use transitions to start and within body paragraphs. Aim for at least two transitional words/phrases in each paragraph.
- ★ Include a repetitive sounding conclusion sentence at the end of each body like “To sum up, ...” or “In all...”
- ★ MORE OF YOUR OWN WORDS -- this means at least two sentences of elaboration after each piece of evidence.

To see this in action, you will follow these steps with your zoo essay:

1. Find your thesis statement. Does it use key words from the prompt and preview the reasons you will be proving in the body paragraphs? If so, circle it. If not, write a new one here:

2. Make sure you have at least TWO transitional words/phrases in each body paragraph. Circle or highlight them if you have them. If you need to add them in, do so and put an arrow to show where they would go. Need some examples?

Beginning (first word of each paragraph)	Middle of Paragraphs (between ideas within each paragraph)	Ending Paragraphs (to wrap up the end of each paragraph)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First, second, etc.• Next• Finally• To start,• Another reason,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Likewise, similarly• However, on one hand• Additionally, also, furthermore, then moreover	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In conclusion• Ultimately• To sum up• In summary

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3. Find a place in each paragraph to add an additional sentence IN YOUR OWN WORDS. This may be explaining why a quote is important, answering the question “So what?” or “Why is this significant?” to something you already wrote. You may need to do this at the bottom/back of your essay, but you can use a * to show where it goes in each paragraph. If you already have at least two sentences of elaboration, look to revise it -- make it more insightful and specific!

4. You need to practice writing a conclusion statement for each body paragraph. Do that here:

Concession para.	
Reason 1 para.	
Reason 2 para.	

Score _____/10