

Research Paper: Draft Checklist

DIRECTIONS: Print out the draft of your RP. Give it to your parent.

Parent: Read it with the list below in mind, checking off each item requirement that is met. Check off an item as it FULLY meets the requirement. If it does not, do not check the box.

Student: Attach this checklist, signed by parent and student, to your original copy, then print out a new and **corrected** copy to bring to class.

- Correct MLA format: Times New Roman, size 12 font, 1" margins, double spaced, heading, header—ALL should be correct before checking this box
- Does the paper have a creative title?
- Does the introduction have an effective hook (attention-getter at the beginning)?
- Does the hook tie to the thesis with a few transition sentences that introduce the topic?
- Does the thesis statement appear as the last sentence of the intro?
- Does the thesis statement CLEARLY state what the essay will prove?
- Does the introduction include at least 5 sentences?
- Does each body paragraph include a topic sentence that directly supports the thesis?
- Does each paragraph include quotes (textual support) from the text?
- Are there multiple quoted sources per paragraph?
- Are quotes cited correctly (MLA)?
- Does each quote help to PROVE/SUPPORT the topic sentence and thesis?
- Are the sources introduced? Are the quotes integrated into the sentence effectively?
- Does the essay have at least one counterargument/refutation?
- Is evidence of the opposing point of view provided?
- Is the counterargument then refuted with evidence to support the thesis?
- Does the conclusion re-state the thesis in the first sentence?
- Does the conclusion summarize the main points?
- Does the conclusion end with a memorable statement, possibly tying back to the hook?
- Is the conclusion at least 5 sentences?
- Are there transitions between ideas within a paragraph AND between paragraphs?
- Are first or second person pronouns avoided (I, me, my, we, us, our, you, your, etc)?
- Are weak verbs avoided where possible?
- Are sentence openers varied (i.e. no two sentences in a paragraph start with the same word; no two paragraphs in the essay start with the same word)?
- Has the essay been edited for typos, misspellings, grammar errors, and incomplete sentences? (HINT: read your paragraphs out loud. You will likely notice errors you missed)
- Is the works cited page included and properly formatted?
- Has a parent or other reader edited for typos, misspellings, grammar errors, and incomplete sentences?

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____