

Common Core Writing: Essay Checklist

Directions: Use the checklist provided as a guide during and after writing. During writing, refer to the checklist to see that you're following the proper essay format. After reading, use the checklist to make sure that you've completed all of the components of the assignment.

Examination of Topic

- I clearly establish and maintain a clear position throughout the entire essay.
- I demonstrate a clear sense of purpose in my thesis statement.

Organization

- I correctly use a multiple paragraph format.
- I organize my ideas clearly and logically.
- I open my essay with clear thesis that reflects the main idea of my essay.
- I address an alternate position(counter claim) and use it to strengthen my argument by refuting the counter claim.
- I use transitions between and within sections of my essay to develop an argument that flows well.
- I end my essay with an effective conclusion.

Support/ Evidence

- I support my opinion skillfully with relevant evidence from the texts.
- I demonstrate accurate literal and inferential understanding of the text through my writing.
- I provide a clear explanation of how my chosen evidence supports my thesis.
- I discuss and refute counter claims utilizing relevant evidence.

Language/ Mechanics

- My sentences are clear and engage the reader.
- My sentences are varied and avoid clutter
- My writing is engaging and creative.
- My choice of conventions (grammar, punctuation, capitalization and spelling) enhance my writing.
- I use Common Core vocabulary appropriately.