

Grading Symbols for Writing Assignments

Major Errors

Symbol	Type of Error	Way(s) to Fix
<i>frag</i>	fragment	Write a complete sentence. Remember that you must have a main clause, which will include an independent subject and verb.
<i>cs</i>	comma splice	Break the error into two separate sentences.
<i>fs</i>	fused sentence	Break the error into two separate sentences.
<i>agr</i>	subject-verb agreement	Remember that singular subjects require singular verbs [ones that end in s] and that plural subjects require plural verbs [ones that do not end in s].
<i>tense</i>	verb tense	Consult your handbook or a dictionary for the correct verb form.

Important [But Less Severe] Errors

Symbol	Type of Error	Way(s) to Fix
<i>pro</i>	pronoun error	Use your handbook to look up the correct pronoun form.
^	missing comma	Add a comma.
<i>sp</i>	spelling	Use a dictionary!
<i>CE</i>	capitalization	Use either a capital letter or a lower case letter.
<i>art</i>	article error	Use a , an , or the correctly.
<i>apos</i>	apostrophe error	Either insert an apostrophe where it belongs, or take it out if it doesn't belong.
<i>pl</i>	plural error	Make the word plural or singular.

<i>punc</i>	punctuation error	Some type of punctuation is necessary. Consult your handbook or class notes.
<i>poss</i>	possessive error	Check your handbook for the correct possessive form.
<i>noun</i>	noun form	Check the dictionary for the correct noun form.
<i>verb</i>	verb form	Check the dictionary or your handbook for the correct verb form.
<i>adj</i>	adjective form	Check the dictionary for the correct adjective form.
<i>adv</i>	adverb form	Check the dictionary for the correct adverb form.
<i>prep</i>	preposition error	Add a preposition if one is necessary, or use a different preposition.
<i>end</i>	ending error	Proofread the ends of words for the correct spelling or word form.
<i>ww</i>	wrong word	Check the handbook or dictionary for the right word.
<i>mw</i>	missing word	Proofread more carefully.
<i>Awk</i>	awkward phrasing	Rephrase whatever is marked. Keep your ideas short and clear.
‡	new paragraph	Begin a new paragraph at the place marked.

Take responsibility for your own writing improvement!

The important thing to remember is that I will mark an error **one time** per assignment. That means that if you misspell a word **throughout** your paper, use **you** instead of **I**, or form an incorrect verb like **tooked**, I will mark that error the **first time** I see it. Then I will expect you to find and fix the problem everywhere else so that you have the opportunity to master identifying and fixing that mistake.