



Peer Editing Carousel

AP Language and Composition: Snell

Estimated Time: 60 minutes

MLA Formatting (1 minute)

- **Look at the heading**
 - Make changes to anything that doesn't follow MLA formatting.

Example:

Ann Dover

Dover I

Mrs. Snell

AP Language and Composition

18 January 2013

Scintillating Title



PASS

Title (1 minute)

- **Look at the title**

- Make sure their title is original and clever and give suggestions to make it stronger

Example:

In Cold Blood Final Essay

vs.

Biting the Bullet



PASS

Attention Getter (1 minute)

- **Read the attention getter**

- Is it effective?
- How could it be more effective?

BANNED:

“Have you ever wondered...”



PASS

Thesis and Preview (3 minutes)

- **Read the introduction paragraph**
 - Highlight their **claim** and put a box around their preview statement(s).
 - Give positive or improvement feedback in margin.



PASS

Careless Errors (3 minutes)

- **Read the first page**
 - Check for careless errors
 - **Put a box around such carlesnesness**

Examples:

- **Possessive apostrophes**
 - (gun's kill people vs. guns kill people)
- **Misused homonyms**

• Their, There	It ,It's	To,
Too, Two		
- **Fragments**
 - incomplete sentences without a subject/predicate



PASS

Pronouns (5 minutes)

- **Read the body paragraphs**

- Circle pronouns
- Put a slash through strings of pronouns over multiple sentences.
- Put a slash through pronouns used as the first word in a sentence.

Examples: He, She, It, Them, They



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Active vs. Passive (5 minutes)

- **Read the body paragraphs**

- Underline helping verbs/ “to be” verbs
was, were, is, was going, would have been going
- Eliminate as many as possible in favor of more precise, active verbs.

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- Examples:
 - “He did go” vs. “He went”
 - “He had thought” vs. “He thought”

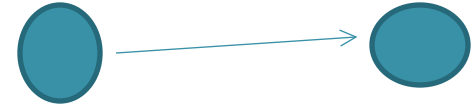


PASS

Verb Tense (3 minutes)

- **Pick a paragraph**

- Watch for shifts in verb tense
- Circle and link such shifts




- **Example:**

- Obama speaks to congress regarding how gun control needed reform.



PASS


Quote Sandwich (4 minutes)

- Focus on their first two body paragraphs
- Check to make sure they have a quote sandwich...
 - Put a check mark  next to...
 - **Top Bread:** Introduction to the quote/ lead-in to the quote
 - **Meat:** Quote itself and Parenthetical Documentation
 - **Bottom Bread:** Analysis of Quote/ Impact
 - Circle and make notes in margin when a top or bottom piece of bread is “soggy” or missing.



PASS

Quote Sandwich (3 minutes)

- Focus on the remaining body paragraphs
- Check to make sure they have a quote sandwich...
 - Put a check mark  next to...
 - **Top Bread:** Introduction to the quote/ lead-in to the quote
 - **Meat:** Quote itself and Parenthetical Documentation
 - **Bottom Bread:** Analysis of Quote/ Impact
 - Circle and make notes in margin when a top or bottom piece of bread is “soggy” or missing.



PASS

Transitions (3 minutes)

- **Read the last and first sentence of all paragraphs**

- Is there a smooth transition?
- Give feedback about improving transition.

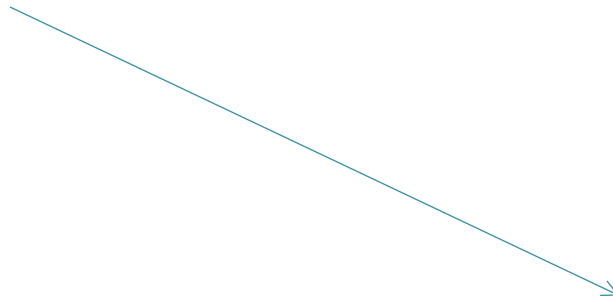
Avoid: “firstly, secondly, thirdly, lastly”; “first, second, third”; “in conclusion”



PASS

Variety (3 minutes)

- **Read the first words in all sentences of their body paragraphs**
 - Draw lines to sentences that begin with the same word.






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Diction (5 minutes)

- **Read the body paragraphs**

- Cross out as many dead, excess words as possible.

Example: very, really

- NO FLUFF!
- Are there any words that are repeated too often or too closely to each other?
 - Draw lines between such words. 

Replace vague words with VIVID words

- “Gun control is bad” vs. “Gun control strips citizens of their second amendment rights.”



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Sentence Variety (3 minutes)

- **Pick one paragraph to focus on**

- Count the number of words in each sentence.
- Are there a variety of sentence lengths?
 - Give feedback in the column.
 - Combine simple sentences to make a compound or complex sentence.

-
- Example: Gun control laws are outdated.

+Gun control laws need reform.

= Gun control laws are outdated and in need of reform.



PASS

Absolutes (3 minutes)

- **Read the last page**
 - Highlight any absolutes used.

Examples:

Every, Never, Always, Everything, Everybody,
Americans, Christians, etc.

(these tend to fall into logical fallacy territory)



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Point of View (2 minutes)

- **Look at their introduction and conclusion paragraphs.**
 - **Circle** and ~~Slash~~ any evidence of second person pronouns (you, your, you're)
 - **Circle** and put a “?” next to all personal pronouns (I, me, we, our, us)



PASS

Contractions (3 minutes)

- **Briefly skim the body paragraphs and circle and slash any contractions**
 - While they make our life easier, contractions aren't acceptable in academic voice

Example:

Can't = Cannot

Wouldn't = Would not

They'd = They would



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Parenthetical Citation (3 minutes)

- **Briefly skim the essay and look at all parenthetical citations**
 - Be sure that they are properly formatted.

Examples:

According to Thomas Smetclock in his *Psychology Today* article, “Gun Control,” “teachers will not be equipped with fire arms, nor will they be trained” (56).

Many agree that “teachers will not be equipped with fire arms, nor will they be trained” (Smetclock 56).



PASS

Coherence (7 minutes)

- **Read the entire essay**
 - Put squiggly lines under confusing/out of order/off topic sentences.