

Ideas and Organization

- My essay states its main point clearly at the beginning.
- I write in paragraphs, and each paragraph has one purpose
- My ending fits the rest of the essay

Style

- I speak in my own voice, saying what I think and giving examples from my real life.
- I avoid vague platitudes and cliches.
- I have no Google copy and paste blah blah blah

Conventions

- Each sentence is a complete thought, with a subject and a verb.
- My point of view is consistent (first person—no slipping to second person)
- I have checked that I am using the right word (their, there, they're; to, too; were, where; then, than; its, it's; etc)
- My pronouns have clear antecedents
- My pronouns agree with their antecedents (singular with singular, plural with plural)
- I use both possessive apostrophes and apostrophes in contractions
- I use no comma splices (joining two independent clauses with only a comma)
- I set off introductory phrases and clauses with a comma
- I join two independent clauses with a conjunction and a comma
- I set off appositives (non-essential interrupting phrases) with commas

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