

Style Checklist

Why? To improve your writing style, especially in preparation for AP coursework.

How to use? Use this checklist during the writing process or after completing your first draft, but BEFORE using the Mechanics Proofreading Checklist.

I. ORGANIZATION

- _____ a. Are your ideas arranged in a logical sequence?
- _____ b. Do you have an introduction, body and conclusion? To make topic sentences, introductions and conclusions more interesting, a question, a quotation or even a proverb may be used.
- _____ c. Have you used appropriate transitions between ideas/paragraphs?

II. VOCABULARY

- _____ a. Have you used varied vocabulary? Use synonyms where possible to avoid repetition. Try to avoid “French I” vocabulary.
- _____ b. Never use vocabulary/expressions you don’t understand. It’s always good to try to expand your vocabulary, BUT look at the definition carefully. Avoid using the wrong part of speech. Ex: land (n.) = terre; to land (v.) = atterrir DON’T write : L’atterrir que mes parents ont acheté...
- _____ c. Avoid anglicisms. Ex: *I’m not interested in science* would best be translated *Je ne m’intéresse pas aux sciences* NOT *Je ne suis pas intéressé aux sciences*.

III. SENTENCE STRUCTURE

- _____ a. Vary the sentence structure to avoid monotony. Try not to begin every sentence with the subject. There are other ways to begin a sentence such as with a prepositional phrase, a present participle, or conjunctions such as *puisque*.
- _____ b. DO NOT begin every sentence with a pronoun.
- _____ c. Avoid short choppy sentences. Combine sentences with relative pronouns (**qui, que** (which, that), **avec lequel** (with which), etc.) and connectives such as **par conséquent, d’ailleurs, à vrai dire, néanmoins, bien entendu**, etc.)