**The “Make Your Paper Better” Worksheet**

*Argument Essay Edition*

* **1. Check for spelling, capitalization, end marks, and other silly mistakes.** *How’d you do?*
* **2. Eliminate personal and nondescript pronouns (I, you, your, they, etc.).** Any sentence that includes these kinds of pronouns need to be written for specificity.
 ***How’d you do?***
* **3. Eliminate contractions.**For academic writing, contractions are not appropriate.  Write out the two words (instead of don't, use do not).
 ***How’d you do?***
* **4. Replace weak words with stronger, more meaningful words.**Words like said, a lot, much, very, and did are nondescript and don't convey much meaning.  Use a thesaurus to find stronger, more descriptive options.
 ***How’d you do?***
* **5. Check your sentence structure.** Use complete sentences. No run-ons. Combine two simple, short sentences into one compound sentence. Vary your structure (long, short, simple, complex, compound, etc.).
 ***How’d you do?***
* **6. Check your organization.** It should go:

Opposing View, Introduction, R1, R2, R3, Conclusion

**OR**

Introduction, Opposing View, R1, R2, R3, Conclusion

**OR**

Introduction, R1, R2, R3, Opposing View, Conclusion

Also, make sure that you don’t have information that goes with Reason 2 in Reason 3’s paragraph, or other silly things like that.
 ***How’d you do?***

* **7. Strengthen your hook.** Don’t use a question. You want your hook to evoke some sort of emotion that makes the reader want to read more.
 ***How’d you do?***
* **8. Tighten up the thesis statement.** The thesis statement should be one sentence that previews the body of the essay in the same order as the body paragraphs.  It shouldn't start with "This essay will talk about..." but it should still fill that purpose. The equation is ***THESIS = OPINION because REASON 1, REASON 2, REASON 3.
 How’d you do?***
* **9. Make sure your evidence (CRITICAL DETAIL or CD) is in the right place and is cited correctly (MLA).
 *How’d you do?***
* **10. Add detail and explanation, focusing specifically on your commentary of the evidence.
 *How’d you do?***
* **11. Strengthen your conclusion.** It should recap your thesis, summarize your paper, and end with a strong call to action.
 ***How’d you do?***

* **12. Copy your paper into Utah Compose. Submit. Make additional adjustments based on that feedback.** Remember, Utah Compose has a lot of great lessons to help you strengthen an element of your writing. Use them!
 ***How’d you do?***
* **13. Self-Assessment:** *Overall, how hard did you work on your essay (researching, organizing, outlining, drafting, editing, revising)?*

*How proud of your work are you?*

**The “Make Your Paper Better” Worksheet**

*Informative Essay Edition*

* **1. Check for spelling, capitalization, end marks, and other silly mistakes.** *How’d you do?*
* **2. Eliminate personal and nondescript pronouns (I, you, your, they, etc.).** Any sentence that includes these kinds of pronouns need to be rewritten for specificity.
 ***How’d you do?***
* **3. Eliminate contractions.**For academic writing, contractions are not appropriate.  Write out the two words (instead of “don't,” use “do not”).
 ***How’d you do?***
* **4. Replace weak words with stronger, more meaningful words.**Words like said, a lot, much, very, and did are nondescript and don't convey much meaning.  Use a thesaurus to find stronger, more descriptive options.
 ***How’d you do?***
* **5. Check your sentence structure.** Use complete sentences. No run-ons. Combine two simple, short sentences into one compound sentence. Vary your structure (long, short, simple, complex, compound, etc.).
 ***How’d you do?***
* **6. Check your organization.** It should go:

Introduction 🡪 Subtopic Paragraph 1🡪 Subtopic Paragraph 2 🡪 Subtopic Paragraph 3 🡪 Conclusion

Also, make sure that you don’t have information that goes with Suptopic 2 in Suptopic 3’s paragraph, or other silly things like that.
 ***How’d you do?***

* **7. Strengthen your hook.** Don’t use a question. You want your hook to evoke some sort of emotion that makes the reader want to read more.
 ***How’d you do?***
* **8. Tighten up the thesis statement.** The thesis statement should be one sentence that previews the body of the essay in the same order as the body paragraphs.  It shouldn't start with "This essay will talk about..." but it should still fill that purpose. The equation is ***TOPIC OVERVIEW including SUBTOPIC 1, SUBTOPIC 2, and SUBTOPIC 3.
 How’d you do?***
* **9. Make sure your information (EVIDENCE or CRITICAL DETAIL) is in the right place and is cited correctly (APA).
 *How’d you do?***
* **10. Add detail and explanation, focusing specifically on your commentary of the information.
 *How’d you do?***
* **11. Strengthen your conclusion.** It should recap your thesis using different words, summarize your paper, and end with a strong call to action.
 ***How’d you do?***

* **12. Copy your paper into Utah Compose. Submit. Make additional adjustments based on that feedback.** Remember, Utah Compose has a lot of great lessons to help you strengthen an element of your writing. Use them!
 ***How’d you do?***
* **13. Self-Assessment:** *Overall, how hard did you work on your essay (researching, organizing, outlining, drafting, editing, revising)?*

*How proud of your work are you?*