Plague List for Academic Writing 2018-19 Subject to ‘add-ons’

* HEADING on left side per MLA
* INDENT all paragraphs! DO NOT SKIP lines between paragraphs
* SPOCK RULE: don’t write in SPACE. Don’t write on space bottom of paper
* BLACK or OFFICE BLUE - ONLY – for hand written essay/assignments
* USE WHITE OUT TAPE for corrections. Neat papers impress!
* UNDERLINE THESIS until told not to do so. Thesis is always a complete sentence, not partial.

NO ‘to be’ verbs in thesis. Thesis is the last sentence of the first paragraph.

* MUST HAVE TITLE per MLA. Title must relate to the message of your essay.
* SKIP SPACE between TITLE AND FIRST LINE OF PARAGRAPH.
* NO CONTRACTIONS! EVER!
* NO “IN CONCLUSION” NO “FOR EXAMPLE”
* NO COUNTING – “First” “Next” “Lastly”
* NO UNIVERSAL PRONOUNS – you, we, us, me – NOT ABOUT YOU!
* SPELL NUMBERS between 1-100. Write numeral at 101 – “101 Dalmations”
* DON’T END SENTENCES WITH VERB, PRONOUN, PREPOSITION
* DON’T WASTE PREPOSITIONS – use them correctly
* NEVER use ‘because’ ‘show’ ‘such as’ -- these = summary
* NO CUTSIE QUOTES – need to cite when using quotes – make quotes meaningful
* NO QUOTES in intro or in conclusion
* EMBED QUOTES front and back- Mary ran from “the house on the corner” before the dog barked (30).
* NO RHETORICAL QUESTIONS – you are the expert, why ask?
* USE A DICTIONARY! SPELL CORRECTLY.
* SPELL THE ENTIRE WORD. DO NOT USE SYMBOLS. NOT (&) “AMPRASAND”
* KIDS are baby goats
* “THE READER” is you. Don’t use
* AMONGST – archaic term; don’t use
* THIS – direction only. Don’t use: This means = summary.
* NO GROCERY LIST – don’t make a list of words. Every word listed must be analyzed.

Pick one and analyze.

* LITTLE TO NO TO BE VERBS and cousins:

am have can shall

are had could should

is has will may

was do would might

were does must

did

* DON’T BEGIN SENTENCES WITH SAME WORDS. Repetitious and makes paragraphs/essays boring. Don’t end one sentence and begin the next sentence with the same word. See if sentences can be combined.
* ELEVATE WORD CHOICE! USE PREPOSITIONS CORRECTLY. Prepositions show direction.

X-looking for X-in order to X-out to get X-ended up

X-carried out X-help out X-put down X-due to

* USE ‘LIKE’ CORRECTLY. He is like the author????

What’s next???