

Understanding Feedback: Marking Checklist with Symbols and Abbreviations

A RESOURCE CREATED BY Dr. Emily Pez (2018)

- //: Faulty parallelism (*LSH 345-47*) (not using the same grammatical structure to connect ideas in a list or with conjunctions such as *not only . . . but also*; Ex. 1: “Odysseus likes being human, promoting himself, and **to use** his intelligence to solve problems.” → correct “to use” to “using.” Ex. 2: “While on her odyssey, **not only does Alison discover herself but also** a closer connection with her father.” → correct to “While on her odyssey, **Alison discovers not only herself but also** a closer connection with her father.”)
- ¶: Start new paragraph
- AP: Ambiguous pronoun (*LSH 341-42*) (Ex. “This shows that . . .” Instead of using “this” by itself, ask yourself “this what?” and place a noun after it.)
- Cap: Need capital letter
- Cl: Cliché (Ex. “the time of your life,” “fall head over heels,” “think outside the box”)
- CS: Comma splice (*LSH 272-75*) (joining two complete sentences with a comma instead of a semicolon or a period; Ex. “‘Everyday Use’ incorporates fire imagery, burning symbolizes oppression in this context.”)
- DM: Dangling modifier (*LSH 373*) (often an “ing” word whose reference is unclear or missing; Ex. “After having an epiphany, Dee’s oppression of the family can no longer continue.” Who is “having an epiphany” here?)
- Doc: Documentation of sources incorrect or missing
- Edit: Unnecessary words (Ex. “In ‘The Yellow Wallpaper,’ **it** develops the theme by . . .” → correct to “‘The Yellow Wallpaper’ develops the theme by . . .”)
- HQ: Hanging quote (Need to interpret the quote further)
- Ital: Use italics
- MC: Mixed construction (*LSH 278-81*) (when a sentence that begins one way finishes with an incompatible structure; Ex. “For writers in the Middle Ages link their texts to an authoritative tradition rather than assert their own originality.” → Need to remove “For” at the beginning of the sentence)
- MM: Misplaced modifier (*LSH 372*) Misplaced modifier (modifiers/descriptive words that do not modify/describe the words that you want them to describe; Ex. “Iona begins conversing with the officer when he interprets a joke as sympathetic.” [“when he interprets a joke as sympathetic” sounds as if it refers to the officer, but Iona is the one who interprets here.])

- NL: Non-inclusive language (*LSH* 376-78) (Ex. “One can place himself in the position of the protagonist.”)
- P: Incorrect punctuation (usually problems with commas, semicolons, and apostrophes)
- PR: Proof read to avoid errors such as typos, extra space, and insufficient space
- PV: Avoid passive voice (*LSH* 329-30) (Ex. “In the story, it **is revealed** that . . .”)
- Rep: Repetition
- SF: Sentence fragment (*LSH* 270-72) (an incomplete sentence; Ex. “Mama not giving Maggie enough credit.”)
- Sp: Incorrect Spelling
- SV: Subject/verb disagreement (*LSH* 292-95) (Ex. “The documentary and the blog exemplifies how . . .”)
- T: Faulty verb tense
- Trans: Transition needed
- Var: Need more variety in sentence structure
- WW: Wrong word, informal language (etc., OK, no clue)

(*LSH*=*Little Seagull Handbook*)

Bullock, Richard, et al. *The Little Seagull Handbook* 3rd ed., Norton, 2017



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