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ERROR NOTATION SYSTEM

Reference: Thurman, Susan. *The Only Grammar Book You'll Ever Need*. Adams Media, 2003.

Notation	Explanation and solutions
AGR	Agreement error. Problem Either subject-verb or subject-pronoun agreement are wrong. How to fix Check for number (singular/plural) and person (third person especially) Reference Thurman 66
AWK	Awkward wording/phrasing. Problem Your phrasing does not sound like a natural English sentence How to fix Simplify to subject-verb-object structure. Make one claim at a time. Arrange claims or information in logical order. Consider what the reader needs to learn first.
CHOPPY	Choppy prose Problem Too many short declarative sentences in a row. Does not flow. How to fix Consider joining some sentences with the appropriate connectors; extend sentences Reference Thurman 125-128
CITE	Citation required Problem Citation is missing How to fix Quotes and summaries require parenthetical citation in MLA format.
CLICHÉ	Avoid clichés and truisms Problem The expression or idea is commonplace and worn out; unoriginal. How to fix Change claim or delete Reference Thurman 129
CM	Comment Description This is an anchor for a digital comment on a Word file. The instructor added [CM] at the end of a section or sentence that they wished to comment on, and then attached a comment bubble to the anchor. This is to avoid highlighting long passages with the "comment" function, which might cover yellow highlighting added to mark errors.
COH	Coherence Problem The sentence is incoherent. It does not make sense as an English sentence. How to fix A complete rewrite of the sentence is necessary. Read it out loud. Simplify to subject-verb-object structure.



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COLL	Colloquial
Problem	Too close to spoken English. Acceptable in informal conversatio, but not in formal writing.
How to fix	Make more formal by choosing different vocabulary or by eliminating or substituting colloquial expressions.
External Links	http://www.wikihow.com/Avoid-Colloquial-(Informal)-Writing http://www2.ivcc.edu/rambo/tip_formal_writing_voice.htm

CONT	Contraction
How to fix	Avoid contractions in formal writing. It's => it is ; won't => will not etc...
Reference	Thurman 87

CS	Comma splice, or comma fault; a form of RUN-ON sentences.
Problem	Two independent clauses (sentences) joined incorrectly with a comma.
How to fix	Consider replacing comma with a period, semicolon or conjunction such as and, because, but etc.
Reference	Thurman 124
External Link	http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/comma-splice.aspx

DM/MM	Dangling or misplaced modifier or verbal phrase
Problem	Word or phrase for which the logical referent being modified cannot be found easily within the sentence
How to fix	Reposition the modifier close to the referent Add an explicit referent close to the modifier.
Reference	Thurman 113-114
External Link	https://writingexplained.org/grammar-dictionary/dangling-modifier

FP	Faulty predication
Problem	Subject and verb don't make sense together
How to fix	Change subject to match verb or change verb to match subject
Reference	Thurman 118

FRAG	Sentence fragment
Problem	Group of words that is not a sentence; it may be missing a subject or a verb
How to fix	Add subject or verb; join to a nearby sentence, if appropriate.
Reference	Thurman 122
External Link	https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/mechanics/sentence_fragments.html

FLOAT	Floating quotation.
Problem	Quote is not linked to the surrounding text.
How to fix	Add lead-in sentence providing some context. Name the speaker. Add follow-up addressing the issues raised in the quote.

MLA	Violation of MLA guidelines
Problem	Failure to respect MLA guidelines in qoting, citing, or formatting.
How to fix	Conform to MLA guidelines in quoting, citing, or formatting.



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PAR	Parallelism in Writing/Parallelism error
Problem	A Lists or sequence of words, phrases, or clauses do not follow the same grammatical structure
How to fix	Make the list/sequence follow the same grammatical structure (all nouns, all adjectives, all verbs...)
Reference	Thurman 115
External Link	https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/mechanics/parallel_structure.html

PL	Plural
Problem	Word should be in plural form
How to fix	Correct to plural form
Reference	Thurman 90, 133, 2-4, 86-90

POSS	Possessive
Problem	Incorrect use of the possessive
How to fix	Apply the correct possessive form; could be a mixup with the plural form
Reference	Thurman 87
	https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/punctuation/apostrophe_introduction.html

PUNCT	Punctuation.
Problem	Punctuation is wrong or missing.
How to fix	Correct punctuation
Reference	Thurman 79

REF	Unclear referent
Problem	Pronoun referent is unclear
How to fix	Consider replacing pronoun with noun or rephrasign sentence.
Reference	Thurman 69
External Links	https://englishcomposition.org/essential-writing/unclear-pronoun-reference/

REL	Relevance
Problem	Idea may not be relevant to the discussion at hand
How to fix	Erase; replace with relevant idea or example; move to a different part of the essay.

RUN-ON/RO	Run on sentence
Problem	Two or more complete sentences that could/should stand on their own are merged into one.
How to Fix	Split into two or more separate sentences. Insert a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or...) after the comma. Insert a semicolon Insert semicolon and transitional word (therefore, in fact...) Insert a colon if second clause clarifies first clause.
Refrence	Thurman 124
External Link	http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/run-on-sentences.aspx



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SING Singular
Problem Word is not in the singular form
How to fix Use singular form

SP Spelling mistake
Problem Incorrect spelling
How to fix Check and correct spelling. Some words, when misspelled, change meaning.

T Abrupt transition from one topic or issue to another.
Problem Transition from topic to topic is too abrupt
How to fix You should signal the reader that something new is coming. A brief introductory explanation is necessary.
Make transition smooth using transition words
Reference Thurman 125-128

TC Failure to maintain verb tense consistency
Problem You shift verb tense from present to past or past to present without cause
How to fix Maintain the same tense throughout the sentence

TENSE Faulty verb tense
Problem Using the wrong tense
How to fix Change tense as needed

VAGUE Idea or claim is vague
Problem An idea is not expressed in precise terms
How to fix Try not to overgeneralize; be specific.
Use concrete language. Replace vague words like "thing" or "people"; who or what exactly do you mean?

VF Verb form
Problem Verb form for the tense used is incomplete or incorrect.
How to fix An auxiliary may be missing or the wrong auxiliary is used.

WC or WW Word Choice/Wrong word.
Problem Incorrect or improperly used word or expression; word is misspelled
How to fix Use a dictionary to check the exact meaning of the word
Use a thesaurus to find alternative words

WF Word form
Problem You are using the wrong form a word (for ex. a noun instead of a verb or an adjective)
How to fix Use the appropriate form