

ERROR NOTATION SYSTEM

Notation	Explanation and solutions
//	<p>Parallelism in Writing/Parallelism error</p> <p>Problem A Lists or sequence of words, phrases, or clauses do not follow the same grammatical structure</p> <p>How to fix Make the list/sequence follow the same grammatical structure (all nouns, all adjectives, all verbs...)</p> <p>Reference Thurman 115</p> <p>External Link http://owl.english.purdue.edu/engagement/2/1/35/</p>
AGR	<p>Agreement error.</p> <p>Problem Either subject-verb or subject-pronoun agreement are wrong.</p> <p>How to fix Check for number (singular/plural) and person (third person especially)</p> <p>Reference Thurman 66</p> <p>External Link http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/599/01/</p>
AWK	<p>Awkward wording/phrasing.</p> <p>Problem Your phrasing does not sound like a natural english sentence</p> <p>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.</p>
CHOPPY	<p>Choppy prose</p> <p>Problem Too many short declarative sentences in a row. Does not flow.</p> <p>How to fix Consider joining some sentences with the appropriate connectors; extend sentences</p> <p>Reference Thurman 125-128</p>
CITE	<p>Citation required</p> <p>Problem Citation is missing</p> <p>How to fix Quotes and summaries require parenthetical citation in MLA format.</p>
CLICHÉ	<p>Avoid cliches and truisms</p> <p>Problem The expression or idea is commonplace and worn out; unoriginal.</p> <p>How to fix Change claim or delete</p> <p>Reference Thurman 129</p>

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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.

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://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 <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/597/1/>

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 <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/620/1/>

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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 quoting, citing, or formatting.
How to fix Conform to MLA guidelines in quoting, citing, or formatting.

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
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/621/01/>

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 rephrasing sentence.
Reference Thurman 69
External Links <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/595/01/>
<http://www.yorku.ca/bethune/writing/pronoun.html>

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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.
Reference Thurman 124
External Link <http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/run-on-sentences.aspx>

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
External link <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/engagement/2/1/32/>

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
External link <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/601/04/>

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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

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