

The 7 **DEADLY SINS** of essay writing

And how to avoid them

1. Don't turn it in at all

This happens because we are afraid of the assignment, procrastination, we have a hard time starting it, we get distracted, sports commitments, family commitments, or just because we are lazy. Let's face it: part of writing is hard work. It's also one way you will grow incredibly as a student. So work hard. Plan ahead. I will be right there to help when you need it.

2. Go completely off topic.

So many students write a paper they weren't asked to write. Some instructors may give you no credit at all! Here are three things you can do to avoid this:

- 1) Attack the prompt: Reread the prompt several times and underline the one sentence that best captures what you are to do. Keep rereading until you "get it."
- 2) Write a one sentence thesis statement that summarizes your main point and put it at the end of your first paragraph (We will practice this).
- 3) Half way through your essay, read through the prompt again to see if you're on topic.

3. Just write it and turn it in quickly don't worry about periods they will never notice

Ever read a sentence like this? Ever *written* a sentence like this? You can avoid this by making sure to proofread after each sentence, after each paragraph, and after finishing your writing. Use spellcheck; use Grammarly; reread the paper multiple times; give it to someone else to read;

4. Write like you are sending a text message

It uses "u" instead of "you" and "i" instead of "I". Not only should you generally avoid personal pronouns like "I" and "you," you should never use a text version of this. Text is different than formal writing. ALSO, DO NOT PUT YOUR WORDS IN ALL CAPS LIKE THIS...EVER.

5. "This paper is about _____"

The writer uses phrases like "now I'm going to tell you about" or "this essay will be about," or "In this essay we'll be discussing _____" There is a time for these conversational "sign-posts" during a speech or a lecture. You may hear your teacher using phrases like this, but never do this in an essay. You can avoid this by crossing out these phrases out entirely.

6. Copy words that aren't really yours but sound good (Plagiarism)

Plagiarism happens when students copy another student's words or another author's words.

I read everything in class and know when it has been pulled from an online source. You can avoid this by using direct quotations for the short phrases or words you copy and including the author's last name. We will practice this quite a bit. Do not copy-and-paste from the internet!

7. Frame the essay with a question

Mature writers give an explanation of what they are going to write about, and let the reader dig to get the exact information in the body paragraphs. This is different than stating your thesis or main point as a question.

eduardo

Period 8

My Hero Archetypal Paper

Do you think there are a lot of heroes out in the world? "Success is not final, failure is not final, failure it is the courage to continue that counts -Anonymous." The quote used above is a great way to describe the journey of a hero. In this essay I will be discussing one of the best heroes ever, Spider-Man. Spider-Man centers on student Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire) who, after being bitten by a genetically-altered spider, gains superhuman strength and the spider-like ability to cling to any surface. He vows to use his abilities to fight crime, coming to understand the words of his beloved Uncle Ben: "With great power comes great responsibility." But what was it that made Spider-Man such a great hero? Before achieving his risk-taking goals, Spider-Man was a boy named Peter Parker in New York City when he was in the laboratory. This is like the first stage of a journey because no one knew who he was; he was just like ordinary. But then he goes on to defeat a villain, which is another stage. As you can see, he is very powerful but NO ONE ELSE KNOWS! In the Spider-Man that just came out, it is sort of different though. Our friendly neighborhood Super Hero decides to join his best friends Ned, MJ, and the rest of the gang on a European vacation. However, Peter's plan to leave superheroics behind for a few weeks is quickly scrapped when he begrudgingly agrees to help Nick Fury uncover the mystery of several elemental creature attacks, creating havoc across the continent. Then he beats them. So Spider-Man is definitely a hero.

THE END.