

ERROR NOTATION SYSTEM

Notation	Explanation and solutions
//	<p>Parallelism in Writing/Parallelism error</p> <p><b>Problem</b> A Lists or sequence of words, phrases, or clauses do not follow the same grammatical structure</p> <p><b>How to fix</b> Make the list/sequence follow the same grammatical structure (all nouns, all adjectives, all verbs...</p> <p><b>Reference</b> Thurman 115</p> <p><b>External Link</b> <a href="http://owl.english.purdue.edu/engagement/2/1/35/">http://owl.english.purdue.edu/engagement/2/1/35/</a></p>
AGR	<p>Agreement error.</p> <p><b>Problem</b> Either subject-verb or subject-pronoun agreement are wrong.</p> <p><b>How to fix</b> Check for number (singular/plural) and person (third person especially)</p> <p><b>Reference</b> Thurman 66</p> <p><b>External Link</b> <a href="http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/599/01/">http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/599/01/</a></p>
AWK	<p>Awkward wording/phrasing.</p> <p><b>Problem</b> Your phrasing does not sound like a natural english sentence</p> <p><b>How to fix</b> 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><b>Problem</b> Too many short declarative sentences in a raw. Does not flow</p> <p><b>How to fix</b> Consider joining some sentences with the appropriate connectors; extend sentence:</p> <p><b>Reference</b> Thurman 125-128</p>
CITE	<p>Citation required</p> <p><b>Problem</b> Citation is missing</p> <p><b>How to fix</b> Quotes and summaries require parenthetical citation in MLA format</p>
CLICHÉ	<p>Avoid cliches and truisms</p> <p><b>Problem</b> The expression or idea is commonplace and worn out; unoriginal</p> <p><b>How to fix</b> Chagne claim or delete</p> <p><b>Reference</b> Thurman 129</p>
COH	<p>Coherence</p> <p><b>Problem</b> The sentence is incoherent. It does not make sense as an English sentence</p> <p><b>How to fix</b> A complete rewrite of the sentence is necessary. Read it out loud. Simplify to subject-verb-object structure</p>
COLL	<p>Colloquial</p> <p><b>Problem</b> Too close to spoken English. Acceptable in informal conversatio, but not in formal writing</p> <p><b>How to fix</b> Make more formal by choosing different vocabulary or by eliminating or substituting colloquial expressions</p> <p><b>External Links</b> <a href="http://www.wikihow.com/Avoid-Colloquial-(Informal)-Writing">http://www.wikihow.com/Avoid-Colloquial-(Informal)-Writing</a> <a href="http://www2.ivcc.edu/rambo/tip_formal_writing_voice.htm">http://www2.ivcc.edu/rambo/tip_formal_writing_voice.htm</a></p>
CONT	<p>Contraction</p> <p><b>How to fix</b> Avoid contractions in formal writing. It's =&gt; it is ; won't =&gt; will not etc..</p> <p><b>Reference</b> Thurman 87</p>
CS	<p>Comma splice, or comma fault; a form of RUN-ON sentences.</p> <p><b>Problem</b> Two independent clauses (sentences) joined incorrectly with a comma</p> <p><b>How to fix</b> Consider replacing comma with a period, semicolon or conjunction such as <b>and, because, but</b> etc.</p> <p><b>Reference</b> Thurman 124</p> <p><b>External Link</b> <a href="http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/comma-splice.aspx">http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/comma-splice.aspx</a></p>
DM/MM	<p>Dangling or misplaced modifier or verbal phrase</p> <p><b>Problem</b> Word or phrase for which the logical referent being modified cannot be found easily within the sentenc</p> <p><b>How to fix</b> Reposition the modifier close to the referent Add an explicit referent close to the modifier.</p> <p><b>Reference</b> Thurman 113-114</p> <p><b>External Link</b> <a href="http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/597/1/">http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/597/1/</a></p>
FRAG	<p>Sentence fragment</p> <p><b>Problem</b> Group of words that is not a sentence; it may be missing a subject or a vert</p>

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**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/>

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

**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

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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/>

**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 of 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.