**COMMON WRITING SINS:**

* All work should be in MLA format.
* Thesis is your LAST sentence in your introduction
* Write in *present* tense.
* You/ your or I/me . . . Use words like “one” or “the reader” instead.
* Wrong homophone
* Not using apostrophes out of *laziness*
* Subject/verb agreement
* Developing an idea & connecting it back to thesis. . . This shows me your ability to analyze.
* ; but is wrong , but is right
* Know when to use a comma, no comma, and a semicolon.

Example: I like chocolate and vanilla ice cream. . . NO COMMA.

Example: I like ice cream, and chocolate is my favorite. COMMA + CONJUNCTION

Example: I like ice cream; chocolate is my favorite. SEMICOLON

* Transition words that aren't coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS)
* Alot. . . Use “many” instead.
* Big, good, bad = elementary words & they are not descriptive
* No contractions in formal writing (can’t = cannot)
* Beginning sentences with “such as” or “like” immediately make them fragments
* No rhetorical questions. . . Restate what you want to say into a declarative sentence.
* YOU MUST HAVE IN-TEXT CITATIONS (PARENTHETICAL DOCUMENTATION) *AND* A WORKS CITED PAGE, OR IT’S PLAGIARISM.
* Have some pride in your work, and *proofread.*