

Doubt Personal Essay Revision Checklist

Writing Goals:

1. Organize according to a purpose.
2. Eliminate comma splices and pronoun errors.
3. Write clearly.
4. Revise awkward phrasing (declutter those sentences!).
5. Write with personality, with style, with a voice.
6. Be descriptive.



Directions: Address each question and checkbox below. Make sure you mark any corrections on your draft or submit your Google Doc with a history of changes. Anyone who does not submit **one edited rough draft** will lose 5 points on the final draft. **You must complete every step!**

Introduction:

- Do you begin with an engaging first sentence? Something personalized? Something that will grab the reader?
 - Do not** begin your response w/ a generic, general statement about people, doubt, fallacious thinking, judgment, stereotyping, etc.
 - Instead, begin by talking about yourself, begin with some personality.
- Do not** introduce the task.
 - Instead, introduce *your experience, your doubt*, etc.
- Do not mention *Doubt* at all.
- Do you establish what the purpose of the essay is?
 - Do you have a thesis statement that introduces the point of the essay?
 - Is your thesis clear, focused, and related to the body paragraph(s)?
 - Can the reader generally tell what the body paragraphs will be about?

Body Paragraphs:

- Do you begin your body paragraph with a topic sentence?
- Does your topic sentence relate to the topic of the paragraph?
- Do not** randomly organize your paragraphs.
- Is your paragraph framed around a central idea?
- Do not** include superfluous, unnecessary background.
- Show; don't tell — can the reader picture what you are describing? Or are you “telling” too much?

- Do you use imagery, concrete diction, figurative language, and other writing strategies to bring your emotions, your surroundings, and the basic situation to life?

Conclusion:

- Do you have a conclusion that wraps up the essay? That ties everything together?
- Do you draw conclusions about your doubt, about your experience?

Sentences, Language & Conventions:

- Are your sentences fluent and varied?
- Are there any sentences you can combine?
- With conjunctions (and, or, for, but, nor, yet, so)?
- Are your sentences clear? Are there any sentences that are confusing, cluttered, or vague?
- Are you getting too wordy? Simplify for the sake of clarity.
- Is your diction appropriate? Is your language use creative and unique?
- Specific?
- Precise?
- Used correctly? Don't use "big" words for the sake of using them.
- Creative?
- Do you avoid cliché statements and descriptions?
- Are all proper nouns capitalized?
- Do your pronouns agree in person, number, and in gender with their antecedents?
- Everyone = his or her (his)
- Someone = his or her (his)
- A person = his or her (his)
- Anyone = his or her (his)
- An individual = his or her (his)
- Do you have any run-on sentences?
- Do you have any comma splices?
- Example: George is not trying to scare the people of Valynicka, he is trying to inspire them. Add a period, conjunction, or semicolon to fix this.
- Do you have any sentence fragments? You shouldn't have them, even in an informal response (rhetoric is different).
- Example: Although Melissa was really trying to scare her brother.
- Example: There are so many things about which I want to learn. When I am older, wiser, and stronger.
- Which is why I'm angry.
- Are colons used correctly?
- Rules
- * Introduce a list (IC + : + List)
- * Second clause explains the first (IC + : + IC)

Final Submission: You must submit all of the following:

- Your final draft (1.5-2 pp.).
- Your rough draft **with your revision comments written on the draft.**
- Your final draft MUST be typed and double-spaced (12 font, **Times New Roman** w/ a proper heading).
- Submit your essay to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com).