**Aiming for an Exemplary Writing Performance**

The paper exhibits all or most of the following characteristics:

* **Thesis Statement**: An original controlling idea or topic, which is clearly stated and leads the reader to the organization and content of the paper, often by using a directional clause.
* **Structural Elements**: reads as a unified whole and masterfully uses all structural elements (introduction, body, and conclusion). No repetition of information exists, and transitions between paragraphs are seamless. All paragraphs are flawless, developed (Reason, Evidence, Analysis), and support the thesis (Link).
* **Support**: Research is factually relevant and accurate with numerous citations and varied citation methods (direct and embedded quotes, paraphrases). Employs **six (6)** or more quality resources, especially those with peer review. Sources are timely and valid, and represent a diverse breadth and depth of research.
* **Analysis**: Demonstrates an extensive understanding of the topic by examining critical relationships between source materials and drawing unique, thought provoking conclusions.
* **Style**: Mature, objective tone and formal language—Sentence variety enhances impact while nearly perfect grammar, mechanics, and spelling enhance a strong voice and tone.
* **Format**: No errors in 8th edition MLA format throughout the paper and Works Cited page

**The Research Paper Revision and Editing Checklist**

**Content**

**Introduction**

* Gripping opening sentence/hook
* Compelling introductory strategy (reader wants to read on)
* Smooth transition between hook and thesis

**Unity**

* Adequately limited focus
* Clear thesis statement
* Topic sentences help prove the thesis
* Information is relevant to thesis
* Information is fresh and insightful

**Conclusion**

* Thesis is reiterated in light of your argument or explication
* Effective concluding strategy

**Cohesion**

* Clear and logical organization
* Clear topic sentences in all body paragraphs
* Effective concluding sentences where needed

**Transitions (Clear connections)**

* Within and between paragraphs
* Between paragraphs and thesis
* Between your writing and cited material

**Support**

* Convincing evidence for thesis and topic sentences
* Relevant information to thesis
* Current sources (when appropriate)
* Credibility of internet source is certain
* Effective balance of paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting context provided for *all* borrowed material
* Proper use of parenthetical citation
* Authority of every author established (use full name and title) on first reference
* Comment thoroughly on every citation, relate to your argument in the immediate paragraph and to your overall thesis

**Editing**

**CRISP and Other Concerns**

* **Cut artless repetition and lard**
* **R**educe clauses
* **I**ntensify verbs
* **S**harpen diction and vague language
* **P**ack phrases to simplify wordiness
* Define key terms
* Cut the use of “I”, and “you”; avoid “one” as a replacement (too stiff)
* Freshen clichés
* Formal register, so avoid slang

**Sentence Fluency Corrections**

* Sentence fragments
* Comma splices
* Fused or run on sentences
* Meaningless verb tense shifts
* Incorrect verb forms
* Subject/Verb agreement
* Pronoun/antecedent references
* Faulty parallelism
* Monotony of sentence patterns (Use a balance of simple, compound, and complex sentences)

**Punctuation to Review and Correct**

* Commas
* Semicolons
* Colons
* Parentheses
* Brackets
* Ellipses

**Conventions to Review and Correct**

* Spelling
* Hyphenation
* Numbers
* Possession
* Capitalization

**Format**

**Presentation (MLA format 8th Edition)**

* One inch margins
* Double spaced
* ½ indent for paragraphs
* No lines between paragraphs
* Interesting title
* Correct topography—12 point
* Times New Roman

**Documentation of Sources**

* Documentation of all paraphrases, summaries, and quotations (Anytime you use someone else’s words, ideas, or information)
* **Plagiarism will result in a zero**
* Correct MLA parenthetical citation
* Correct use of quotation marks
* Avoid block quotations

**Format of MLA “Works Cited” Pages**

* Use alphabetical order
* Use MLA 8th edition to format citations
* One inch margins
* “Works Cited”, centered, at top of page
* Quotation marks for titles of articles or other items published within larger works
* Italics for journals, books, or other items published on their own
* Hanging indent for all entries with two lines or more
* Double space all entries
* Do not skip lines between entries