

WRITING ERRORS

1. Avoid using second person pronouns *you*, *your*, *yourself* in formal paragraphs and compositions. (Check with your instructor about the appropriateness of second person for any writing assignment.)

INCORRECT: You will enjoy the Detroit Zoo.

BETTER: One will enjoy the Detroit Zoo.

BETTER: An animal lover will enjoy the Detroit Zoo.

2. Avoid fragments.

INCORRECT: I hurried to my class. Which was already in session.

CORRECT: I hurried to my class, which was already in session.

3. Avoid run-on sentences.

INCORRECT: The program was interesting, it made me realize the importance of good health.

CORRECT: The program was interesting; it made me realize the importance of good health. (A PERIOD MAY BE USED IN PLACE OF THE SEMI-COLON)

CORRECT: The program was interesting, for it made me realize the importance of good health.

4. Avoid disagreement of subject and verb.

INCORRECT: Each one of the girls are going.

CORRECT: Each one of the girls is going.

5. Write out numbers zero to ten in formal papers.

6. Avoid faulty pronoun reference.

INCORRECT: Every one of the group gave their impression of the incident.

CORRECT: Every one of the group gave his or her impression of the incident.

7. Watch out for spelling errors.

8. Avoid over-using contractions. (Check with your instructor about the appropriateness of contractions.)

9. Avoid being repetitious. Use synonyms, sentence combining, and sentence variety to avoid unnecessary repetition.

REMEMBER - PROOFREAD PAPERS CAREFULLY!