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!