How to Get the Most from the CAP Writing Submission Feedback Form

As you look over our feedback on your submission, please keep in mind the following tips for getting the most out of our comments.

1. First, you should take a look at how well we say you responded to the prompt. Did your tutor say you had an academic tone? Do you avoid alienating your audience? These higher order concerns tremendously influence the quality of your essay, so it is important take note of your overall ability to maintain an academic tone that responds directly to the prompt. If you struggle in this area, make an extra effort to respond directly to assignment guidelines in your future assignments, and be sure to clarify any confusion you have about assignment guidelines with your professors. The Center for Academic Performance (CAP) has resources available to help you clarify such guidelines, as well. Visit www.hsc.unt.edu/CAP and click on “Writing & Presentation Support” for a complete list of these resources.

2. Pay attention to the quality the tutor has placed on your ideas. If you lack originality, try to incorporate more honesty into your writing approach – often, this additional honesty can make your unique personality more strongly connected to your writing and research, making the finished product more original. If you have trouble engaging the reader’s interest, try to combine more vivid language with a deeper examination of your ideas.

3. If the tutor has stated that your paper is disorganized or unfocused, make sure that your future assignments are centered around a strong thesis statement. A helpful rule of thumb here is to give every paragraph a topic sentence that is directly connected to this thesis statement and to make sure that every sentence in each paragraph is focused on strategically advancing that paragraph’s topic sentence. This focus can enhance your organization substantially, giving your essay a stronger sense of purpose.

4. If the tutor has noticed a lack of organization in your paper, make sure that your paragraphs in future papers develop your main thesis by using a natural, clearly logical progression of ideas from the beginning of your paper to its end. To further connect these ideas, look between paragraphs and sentences for transitions. It’s essential that paragraphs be clearly connected to each other and that sentences be clearly connected to each other if you don’t want to lose your reader.

5. Developmental concerns are closely linked to concerns in organizational concerns. If your conclusion and introduction don’t seem to be matching up, be sure that in future papers your introduction adequately prepares your readers for the entirety of the paper’s points and that it introduces the thesis that your conclusion will reiterate. Also, keep in mind that your conclusion is not the mere repetition of your thesis, but is pointing out the relevance of the fact that you have proven your thesis. Because the conclusion only has a chance of “working” if you have successfully proven your thesis to the reader in the body of your paper, problems with your development often happen because you need to include additional evidence in the body of your paper so that your thesis is clearly proven before you arrive at your conclusion.

6. Many grammatical errors can slow down or prevent your reader from understanding your prose, and fewer grammatical errors indicate that you are more considerate of your reader and that you take the ideas you express seriously. For these reasons, grammatical errors should be carefully avoided. Often, many grammatical errors can be prevented with careful proofreading. If you do not understand particular markings of grammatical errors, it is important that you make appointments with us and attend our workshops so that you can perfect your writing abilities. If you want to jump-start your grammar skills on your own, try starting out with a style manual and continuing your practice from there.