

2016-17 DISSENT/DISAGREEMENT REVISION GUIDE



Editing Shortcuts

- ✓ D is short for **development**. This note means that you should expand on your argument, typically answering the questions **how** and **why**. It's not enough for a paper to assert claims; you need to prove them with analysis showing how and why those claims are true.
- ✓ WC means **word choice**. Fix your words.
- ✓ AWK means **awkward**. Either your structure or word choice needs reworking. If you're not sure what's problematic, read the section aloud.
- ✓ D/D is shorthand for **dissent and disagreement**.
- ✓ T means **thesis statement** and TS means **topic sentence**.

Revising Versus Editing

- ✓ Revisions need to be submitted to me in person, with the latest draft stapled to all preceding drafts of the paper.
- ✓ The second draft of your paper should be a **revision**, not just an **edit**. Editing the paper merely means correcting issues of proofing and small mistakes that crept into the rough draft. A revision entails occasionally scrapping or rewriting a whole paragraph, restructuring the piece or sentences, even entertaining the idea that you need to develop a brand new argument. A revised paper will reflect new thought, new consideration, and new structure.
- ✓ My big suggestions for revision are often written in the margins of the paper and describe sentences or paragraphs as a whole. These are the most important changes to make in your paper, so please do not ignore them.

Common Errors to Correct

- ✓ **Topic sentences need to be arguments**: they need to reflect what your position is, not Boorstin, not anyone else.
- ✓ **Check the spelling of dissension**.
- ✓ **Make sure to reference Boorstin**: this is probably most usefully done in the introduction somewhere, but you can also use him in the body of the piece, as evidence or a naysayer to argue against.
- ✓ **You must develop a clear definition of dissent and disagreement**. That definition needs to be consistent through the entire essay and offer a clear distinction between the two.
- ✓ **Be careful about circular argumentation**. One of the most pervasive issues in the essays was using circular reasoning to prove one side or another on dissent/disagreement. Be careful that your paragraphs don't follow a pattern like this:
 - Dissent is bad because groups like the KKK use it. The KKK is bad because it dissents.
- ✓ **The boomer paragraph needs to be a new argument**. A lot of boomers ended up simply repeating claims from body paragraphs one and two.
- ✓ **The government/majority cannot dissent**: those in power or the majority cannot dissent, so take out examples that argue Abraham Lincoln dissented on slavery.

REVISION CHECKLIST

___ STAMPY INTRODUCTION

___ DISSENT/DISAGREEMENT CLEARLY DEFINED

___ 6 CONCRETE DETAILS

___ TOPIC SENTENCES ARE ARGUMENTS

___ 800 to 1400 WORDS

___ GRAMMAR AND SPELLING CHECKED

___ TRANSITION LANGUAGE IN TOPIC SENTENCES

___ CONCLUSION TIES BACK TO INTRO