Revision Checklist for the Argument Research Essay

**While revising, please use the following as a checklist.** You may wish to print this document and manually place a checkmark beside each item when you have finished it to your satisfaction.

**Essay Revision Checklist**

* Does my entire essay follow the structure of a strong Argument Research Essay? When I list my thesis statement and topic sentences, do they still make logical sense? Does each topic sentence connect directly to an idea in my thesis? Is every idea in my thesis expressed in a topic sentence?
* Does my introduction paragraph, after the attention-grabber, share some basic information about my topic in a way that informs the reader and prepares the reader for the thesis? How might I make this section smoother and more precise? How might I make this section connect better to the attention-grabber and the thesis statement?
* Does my introduction paragraph end with a very clear thesis statement that names my topic plus three main ideas about the topic? Does the thesis statement transition smoothly from the middle section of the introduction? Do my body paragraph topic sentences’ main ideas match the three main ideas in my thesis?
* Is each body paragraph based on 1 of my main ideas from my thesis statement?
* Does each body paragraph begin with a topic sentence + transition? Could I make the topic sentence clearer or smoother for the reader? Does the topic sentence introduce the paragraph’s other sentences as directly as it can?
* After the topic sentence, do I have at least 4 good, detailed sentences of examples that directly support the topic sentence?
* How can I make each of these sentences or examples more vivid for the reader?
* How can I remove generalities and replace them with specifics in each sentence?
* How can I improve clarity and flow by adding transitions, combining sentences, and eliminating vague words like “things” or repetitive language, like over-using the same word related to my topic?
* Does everything in each body paragraph match the promise the thesis makes? Have I strayed from my purpose or focus in any of my body paragraphs?
* Does each sentence in each body paragraph fulfill the promise the topic sentence makes? Have I strayed from my purpose or focus in any of my body paragraph sentences?
* Does my conclusion paragraph begin with an overview of my essay’s thesis without repeating it? If it does, what can I do to make it more appealing to the reader? How can I improve the flow of this sentence to guide readers as they move to the conclusion?
* Does my conclusion end with a look at the bigger picture without starting an entirely new topic?
* Is the “look to the bigger picture” relevant and appropriate for all I have done in my other paragraphs? Could I make this section clearer, more engaging, and more focused on the reader?
* Does my “look to the bigger picture” leave readers thinking? In what way? What type of impact do I want to offer readers at the end, and have I done that as well as I might?
* Do I have any grammar errors, and am I using every tool available to me (reading aloud many times, having others proofread, using Grammarly)?
* Is there any place at the start of any sentence that would read more smoothly if a transitional word or phrase were used?
* Have I followed all of the specific rules of APA formatting at every step? Have I had my APA formatting reviewed by others? Have I held my paper up to the correct APA sample paper and checked every letter, space, margin, and all other elements?