

Topic: Understanding Editing Comments

Explanation: When correcting students' papers, professors often use terms and abbreviations that students may not understand. The following is an explanation of common terms and abbreviations.

Examples

awk (awkward). The sentence structure needs improvement. Read the sentence aloud and see if you can “hear” how to improve the sentence. It may help to simplify the sentence by beginning with a “subject, verb” pattern. In other words, begin the sentence with who or what is doing the action, followed by the verb (action word).

c/s (comma splice). Refers to when a comma has been used (instead of a period) to break two complete sentences.

Cliché. Cliches are self-completing phrases such as “it is raining cats and dogs. Think of a more original, academic way to express the thought.

frag (sentence fragment). Fragments are also called incomplete sentences. The sentence is missing a subject, verb, or both.

¶ (paragraph symbol). This symbol means that a paragraph break should be inserted.

not coherent. Coherence means being logical and consistent, making sense as a whole. The writer should carefully reread the assignment guidelines and edit the paper with the goal of expressing ideas clearly and creating a logical flow of ideas.

not parallel. The writer needs to use a consistent pattern in the sentence for ideas with the same level of importance. For example, all verb endings in a list should be the same (for ex: “ing”).

r/o (run-on sentence/). A run-on, or fused sentence, is when two or more complete sentences are combined into one sentence. The sentence needs to be broken up or the punctuation needs to be corrected.

sva (subject/verb agreement). The verb in the sentence is not in the correct form for the subject of the sentence. Ex: He *grade* the paper. SHOULD BE He *grades* the paper.

vt (verb tense). Sometimes referred to as “t” for tense. Refers to an incorrect verb tense. Ex: Yesterday, I *go*. SHOULD BE Yesterday, I *went*.

wordy. The writer has repeated ideas or used many weak words when fewer strong words would result in a clearer sentence.