

Writing Self-Assessment

- Have I done just what the assignment asked of me?
- Have I followed all of the rules my professor set for me?

Check each one on the instruction sheet. ✓

- Have I used the correct reference style, and have I cited every piece of information that isn't my own?

Name the style, put checks by each reference and citation that you KNOW is right, circles where they are wrong, missing, or uncertain.

- What is my thesis? Have I expressed it clearly?
- Have I provided enough background information for readers to understand my opinions and the significance of the subject matter I am addressing?
- Will readers understand my argument? Have I provided the specific examples, concrete language, careful reasoning, and supporting evidence that they need in order to understand my position and decide if they agree with it?

Draw a line under the introduction: at this point, does the reader know what you're doing? Write, "They know."

Draw a line under the background information or literature review: is the reader ready to hear your position? Write: "They're ready."

Draw a line under each IDEA: does each one say something that would support what you're arguing? Write: "This helps."

- Am I presenting a consistent voice throughout the text? If there are variations in the tone of the document, are they intentional and effective?

Read out loud. Mumble, if you must. Imagine yourself a 19th century public speaker: maintain your dignity with every line. Circle anything that might be "a little off."

- Is my conclusion an effective summary, restatement, or challenge?

Write: "Told them what they should decide."

- What is the best part of the paper?
- What is still not very good? Why? How can it be made better?

Write a short note to yourself at the end. Answer these questions.

Self-evaluation doesn't work, unless you can detach yourself from your own work and be critical of it. Don't evaluate YOU; evaluate the WRITING.