

Common Errors

Proofreading your essay can help avoid errors. Consider these common errors in essay writing:

- You do not answer the topic question and write on a different topic.
- You go off topic, discussing areas that may not be relevant.
- You do not organize your supporting ideas or you do not write sufficient information to address the topic question.
- You do not write a conclusion or forget to summarize the position taken in the essay.

Examples of common errors and ways to correct the errors.

- Informal language or “texting” forms

Informal	Formal
The incident got her all riled up . The process back in the days was terrible. The guys did the work good .	The incident annoyed her. The process in the past was terrible. The workers performed the work well .
U could say that people r always 2 busy these days 2 notice their surroundings.	You could say that people are always too busy these days to notice their surroundings.

- Incomplete sentences that do not have a subject, verb, or do not express a complete thought.

Incomplete Sentences	Complete Sentences
Whose music has sold <u>millions</u> .	Michael Jackson is a singer whose music has sold millions.
When Jessie lived in Brazil.	When Jessie lived in Brazil, she learned how to speak Portuguese.
<u>Parminder</u> , who plays hockey. Great athlete!	<u>Parminder</u> , who plays hockey, is a great athlete.

- Run-on sentences

Run-on Sentences	Corrected Sentences
She volunteers at a local hospital, he runs a homeless shelter.	She volunteers at a local hospital and he runs a homeless shelter.
<u>Parminder</u> is a great athlete he plays hockey, really good at scoring, he’s a really good team captain.	<u>Parminder</u> is a great athlete. He plays hockey and is not only good at scoring, but he’s also a good team captain.

- Wrong tense or verb form

Incorrect	Correct
Maria has <u>wore</u> that dress since her mom bought it for her.	Maria has <u>worn</u> that dress since her mom bought it for her.
I suggested that she <u>studies</u> rather than wait last minute for the test.	I suggested that she <u>study</u> rather than wait last minute for the test.

- Incorrect punctuation

Incorrect	Correct
The bakery sold cupcakes croissants and cookies.	The bakery sold cupcakes, croissants, and cookies. or The bakery sold cupcakes, croissants and cookies.
Dancing may seem difficult at first but it gets easier the more you practice	Dancing may seem difficult at first, but it gets easier the more you practice.

- Repetitive sentences and ideas

Repetitive

The **female** role has changed over the years with more **females** going out to work but **some females** continue to stay at home while they care for their children. Although more **females** are going out to work, **females** continue to stay at home caring for their children.

Edited

The female role has changed over the years. More women go to work, while others continue to stay at home and care for their children.

- At the beginning of a new paragraph, transitions are missing and do not lead into the following paragraphs appropriately.
A few possible transitions include:

However, in spite of, nevertheless, meanwhile, subsequently, additionally, furthermore, in brief, on the whole, to conclude.