

Things to look for in your next essay:

1. NO 2ND PERSON!

Try to keep it in 3rd person, but there will be times when 1st person singular is necessary, and that is okay as long as it is personal. Examples for 3rd person: Someone, somebody, he or she, they, it is, the + noun, one idea, each person....

2. No 1st PERSON PLURAL

Unless another character is introduced in the writing, 1st person plural should not be used. For example, if the words “we,us,our” are used but there is not another character introduced, then this is unclear and the assumption is the reader is the other person. However, the reader is most likely not apart of the story.

3. Limit the passive voice

A. In the Indonesian language, passive voice is very common, but try to keep it as much active voice as possible, unless it is unavoidable.

B. Some excellent times to use passive voice is when the doer is not known, or the writer does not want to include the doer's name because the writer wants to be polite.

4. Pay attention to the parallelism

a. The subjects and verbs, should be parallel (agree). E.g., ~~The child wants their way.~~ **Incorrect** The child wants her way. **Correct**

b. Tenses should be parallel- ~~Her parents thought (that) she likes the food.~~ **Incorrect** Her parents think she likes the food. **Correct**

C. Do not switch back and forth from tenses.

1. A good paper does **not** need to have all 12 English tenses.

5. Pay attention to not having too many “that” “even” “just” etc.

A. Many times words such as “even, that, really, just, so” are unnecessary. In conversational language, these words are very acceptable and appropriate, but in academic writing, they become redundant and unnecessary. E.g., *Susan just loves her ice cream.* (No need for the word ‘just’) Example 2 *Susan is just a child, so others should speak kindly to her.* (Now the word ‘just’ is needed)

6. Remember compound and complex sentences sound more on a university level

A. Compound sentences uses FANBOYS- For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So

B. When two independent sentences can stand-alone connected by a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS) it receives a comma. When it does not, it does not get a comma.

Examples: I like to fish, and I like to swim. – Compound sentence

It is possible to climb up the wall and still be careful. – Not compound

C. With complex sentences remember **ACDC** (the old music band)- When the sentence starts with a dependent clause, it receives a comma.

1. He can sing if he comes on time. (No comma)

2. If he comes on time, he can sing. (Receives a comma)

D. Simple sentences are fine, but usually the sentence needs to be separated from the former and latter sentences. Also, the point is more clear and direct.

7. Support statements with details

A. It is very important the reader understands the material and is not confused. Details are necessary. Remember, the reader was not there when the story happened.

B. Please assume that the reader is not informed on certain lingo. I.e., words related to gaming, shopping, and computer science.

8. Do not use repetitive words or repetitive thoughts

A. Synonyms are great

1. If the word “awesome” is used over and over, the essay becomes boring. Substitute words like “excellent, outstanding, wonderful etc.”

B. If a point is made in paragraph one, it should not be made again in paragraph two.

9. Do not use unnecessary words

Sentence one: The theater offers temptations in the form of snacks.

Sentence two: The theater offers tempting snacks.

The same point was made in sentence two without unnecessary words.

A. Many times a students wants to hit the minimum word count by using unnecessary words, but the essay becomes redundant and boring.

10. Do not turn in something corrected in the 1st draft, but not edited in Final draft.

- a. This will automatically be point reduction because it shows the 1st draft was not thoroughly critiqued.

Extra items for careful consideration

1. Remember the Running head: A GENERAL TOPIC- LIFE IN CAMBODIA

Specific Title- THE STRUGGLES AMONGST THE POOR IN CAMBODIA

Your Name

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