

Common Problems Noted in FCS Student Essays*

proposed solⁿ?
lacking necc. foundation
unaware of existing research

} CSCI 6606 students see *Principles for Term Paper Grading*

Problem	Example
<i>misspelled words</i>	end-user (note the hyphen) e-mail (<i>not</i> email) et al. (note punctuation) Internet (capitalize proper nouns) lifecycle <i>or</i> life-cycle (<i>not</i> life cycle) naïve (note the diaeresis) Unix (not UNIX, because it is not an acronym) Web and Web-based (capitalize proper nouns), <i>but</i> webpage, webserver and website
<i>meaningless words</i> (with improvements)	period of time → period <i>or</i> time in order to → to interval of time period → interval <i>or</i> time interval actually (when used solely for emphasis) → <i>omit</i> really (when meaning very)
<i>imprecise language</i>	mention (an incidental reference) . . . <i>when</i> noted, said, found, commented, etc. is what you mean intuitive . . . <i>when</i> you mean familiar or common practice easy-to-use . . . <i>when</i> you mean to refer to the concept of <i>perceived</i> <i>ease-of-use</i> or to a more elaborate concept of usability
<i>colloquialisms</i>	a lot, lots of → much <i>or</i> many plenty of → much way better → much better has gone way high questions run through the mind access (<i>as a verb</i>) → <i>perhaps</i> use <i>or</i> gain access to
<i>inappropriate terminology</i>	user friendly

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Editorial and Proofreading Notation

<i>ambig.</i>	Ambiguity should be resolved	
<i>cite</i>	The full bibliographic record must be included	
<i>coloq.</i>	Avoid colloquialisms and jargon in formal writing Examples of the most frequent uses of jargon etc. are on page 1	
<i>cont.</i>	Avoid contractions in formal writing	
<i>dang.</i>	Avoid dangling referents such as in the sentences 'They found' and 'This means' (Who are 'they'? This <i>what?</i>)	
<i>defⁿ?</i>	Key terms should be defined earlier In a summary the key terms should be explained not merely referred to.	
<i>expand</i>	Expand acronyms and abbreviations at first use <i>except</i> for the very common non-technical abbreviations such as the usual Latin ones (for example, 'a.m.', 'e.g.', 'et al.', 'etc.', 'i.e.', 'p.m.'), names of days and months, academic degrees (e.g. PhD), names of countries (e.g. UK, USA), GMT for standard time, units of measure, and US states in addresses.	
<i>hyph</i>	Use hyphen (-) not dash (– or —) or vice versa	– (en dash) is for ranges of numbers — (em dash) is the usual dash
<i>m/uv</i>	Your meaning is unclear — make it easier to understand	
<i>N/S</i>	Not a sentence	
<i>para</i>	Paragraphs must be clearly delineated by vertical space, indentation, or both	
<i>proof?</i>	Factual claims must be justified by evidence or by citations to work that include evidence	
<i>p.#?</i>	<i>missing page number</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page numbers are required for quotations. • Remember that copying illustrations is the same as quoting. 	
<i>Q</i>	More detail is needed	
<i>rel?</i>	You must explain why this passage is relevant When you describe experimental method (or include any detail from an experiment or study) that detail <i>must</i> be clearly relevant to the point of your summary. If the reason for including the detail is not obvious then you must make the reason clear to your reader.	
<i>ref</i>	References must be parenthetical. Do not use references as nouns. References should not need to be read aloud for sentences to make sense. For example	
	As [1] says . . .	WRONG!
	As Dillon [1] says . . .	BETTER
	In the previous reading [1] . . .	BETTER
	It has been shown that . . . [1].	BETTER
	As (Jones, 1993) says . . .	WRONG!
	As Jones (1993) says . . .	BETTER
	In the previous reading, Jones (1993) . . .	BETTER
	It has been shown that . . . (Jones,1993).	BETTER
<i>symbol</i>	Use the appropriate symbol (examples follow) minus is – not - (hyphen)	multiplication is × not lowercase X
<i>stet</i>	Do not change ignore other editorial mark	
<i>than?</i>	Comparisons must be complete e.g., do not write 'X is better' without making it clear <i>what</i> X is better than	
<i>W/C</i>	Please consult with the Writing Centre for help	

Editorial and Proofreading Notation (cont.)

- Close gap
remove unnecessary horizontal space
- ~~*in order to*~~ } Delete the text that has been struck out
in order to }
- ^ }
/ } Insert (examples follow)
- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|---------------------------|
| , | insert apostrophe | — | insert dash |
| , | insert comma | - | insert hyphen |
| □ | insert blank | ⊙ | insert full stop (period) |
- ¶ Start paragraph here
- ×¶ Paragraph should not start here
Remove break
- Ⓢ Check your spelling
Examples of common spelling mistakes are on page 1
- ✂ }
8< } Trim (avoid excessive words — be neither pleonastic nor abstruse)
- /g Make this change globally, i.e., throughout your document, not just at this one place
- !! Indicates a particularly important or worthwhile part of your essay
- a Change underlined letter to capital (uppercase)
e.g., internet (should be Internet) and www (should be WWW)
- lc Change indicated letter to lowercase (uncapitalised) form
- ↻ Move the circled character to the location indicated
- (second first) exchange position of words or letters indicated

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