

Abbreviations Used in Grading Papers

What follows is a list of typical marginal comments on style, spelling, and argument-form. You can employ it as a “checklist” for the proper mechanics of paper-preparation. But most importantly, the use of these abbreviations simply speeds up the grading process and allows more time and space for comments on the content of your arguments or analyses.

- AGR Lack of agreement in number, gender, or tense
- AL This sentence is too long: break it up
- AWK Awkward; ill-sounding or ungrammatical construction
- CIT No citation or improper citation; footnote or page reference required
- CN Inappropriate contraction: please write out the entire phrase
- D This symbol or word should be deleted
- EX This term or phrase is not self-explanatory: please explicate it
- INF Split infinitive
- ME Please be more explicit; give more details
- MS More support needed; this claim requires more defense than you give it
- NP! Nice point!; an interesting remark or persuasive argument
- NS Non-sequitur; this claim does not follow from its premises
- NT I question the truth of this claim
- PG Start a new paragraph here
- RF The referent of this word is not obvious: please disambiguate
- RP Repetitious or redundant
- SE Sentence error; an incomplete or run-on sentence
- SP Spelling error
- WP Wrong punctuation
- TC Word or phrase is too colloquial; slang
- UN Unclear meaning
- VA Too vague: please be more precise
- WW Wrong or clumsy choice of words
- X Apparent typographical error