

When writing an essay, a writer's primary focus should be on the clear and effective communication of their argument. Within this communication, the writer should strive to fully develop all of their thoughts so that the reader knows what the author is saying through this full communication of the full and complete thesis that the author has developed. RP

If the author has entirely achieved their goals, the message will have been received by the reader's. Insuring that the reader gets what is going on is the most important thing, and you should focus on clear communication, first and foremost. Running in the second place is the thing that an author remembers. ?

INTERPRETING THE FEEDBACK MARKS & COMMENTS

When you complete a written work, my feedback will take a form similar to the sample above. These comments and questions are **not** "corrections." They're prompts for you to think about how **you** want to revise. They're the beginning of a conversation that we will continue when we meet.

- **Write your response to each mark and comment** (write it directly on the essay itself, next to the comment) and bring it when you meet with me.
 - If you can't figure out why I'm making the comment, note that and we'll talk through it in our meeting.
- Below is a list of the comments, what each one means, and the questions to ask yourself (**and answer**) in response.
- They're organized with (what I think are) the most important ideas first, so go through the comments in the order listed below.

COMMENTS RELATED TO MESSAGE & COMMUNICATION

1. **Underlined with a question mark** = Intended meaning is unclear (What are you trying to say?)
2. **Underlined with "RP"** = Rephrase; I get what you're trying to say but there may be ways to say it more effectively (Are you saying exactly what you want to say, exactly how you want to say it?)
 - There may be further marks (informal = slang/language not appropriate for academic work, vocab. = potentially misused words, fluffy = pretty language that doesn't say much, etc.)
3. **Underlined with "Explicate"** = You've got a good point, explain your reasoning to the reader (How did you come to this conclusion? Are you explaining that to your audience?)
4. **Underlined with "Expand"** = You've got a good point, talk more about it to make your work even stronger (What else could you include that is relevant, significant, or explanatory?)
5. **Any other questions** = As a reader, I wondered this (Answer the question asked).

COMMENTS RELATED TO TECHNICAL CONCERNS (GRAMMAR, ETC.)

6. **Underlined with "Frag"** = Sentence fragment (Needs either a subject or a verb).
7. **Underlined with "AV"** = Change to active voice ("the ball was thrown by him" → "he threw the ball")
8. **Circled** = Formal error (spelling, grammar, etc.)