

Outline of General Writing Challenges Observed

- I. Grammar, syntax & punctuation
 - a. Grammar
 - i. Vocabulary (vocabulary is not expansive enough)
 - ii. Incorrect/improper word-tense usage
 - iii. Use of colloquial speech in college-level assignments
 - b. Syntax
 - i. Sentence structure (subject/predicate & transitions)
 - 1. Students whose first & primary language is Samoan tend to write English sentences in the same way a Samoan sentence is written.
 - 2. Transitional & comparative words (however, nevertheless are the commonly misused)
 - 3. Run on sentences & sentence fragments
 - ii. Articles, modifiers
 - 1. The use of the articles/modifiers *a* and *an* before nouns is often incorrect
 - iii. Punctuation
 - 1. Misuse of or omitting commas, semi-colons, colons
- II. Research
 - a. Topics (narrowing/expanding, developing)
 - b. Proper citation formats (for internet sources, journals, books, etc.)
 - c. Gathering, deciphering/interpreting information
 - d. Research writing organization
 - e. Presenting information in a comprehensible and appropriate manner with thesis statement, analysis/conclusion.
- III. Essay writing
 - a. The rules of a basic essay
 - i. Paragraph rules/basics

- ii. Thesis statements
 - iii. Composition of a basic 5-paragraph essay
 - b. Types of essays (Expository, Descriptive, Comparative, Argumentative)
- IV. Proof reading/editing & revising
 - a. “Rushed” writing habits, with no effort to proof-read and edit
 - b. No revisions done, unless specified as part of assignment/ grading