TO: Student
FROM: Chris Reed
DATE: 06/28/19
SUBJECT: Request ID# 123975

Congratulations on your progress in writing this assignment for HIST 125. You’re off to a great start on your Source Evaluation Assignment! My name is Chris, and it’s my pleasure to work with you today. 😊 Before we begin, let’s review a few important guidelines and resources:

➢ Students may submit one request for advice (either written feedback or live online advising) every 48 hours.
➢ You are welcome to come to the Effective Writing Center for help at any stage in the writing process, whether you are just getting started an assignment or want feedback on a rough draft.
➢ Resources to help you revise your writing assignment are hyperlinked within this letter and in the More Resources section at the end.
➢ Before reading this advice, please review the writing that you submitted. We’ve pasted your draft at the end of this advice letter.

At the EWC we are attentive readers who help you improve as a writer by explaining and modeling effective writing skills. For a more detailed discussion of our services, please click this link and visit the Effective Writing Center web site.

Are You Interested in More Help?

Schedule a Live Advising Appointment!
➢ The Effective Writing Center also offers live, online advising via teleconference. You can submit an appointment request through the MyUMGC portal.

Attend an Online Workshop!
The EWC hosts monthly live workshops in Google Hangouts. Our complete calendar is available here.

**Advice Overview**

We will discuss the following strategies that can help you to strengthen your paper:

- Formatting your title page
- Organizing and developing your introduction
- Organizing and developing content
- Pronoun/antecedent agreement
- Repairing comma splices

I will often use sections from your working draft as examples of areas where improvement is needed. I will highlight the “problem” areas in yellow or gray. Many times, I will also model an example of how the problem area can be corrected. Anything that I add to your writing will be highlighted in blue.

Although we will cover revisions and rules, your professor’s instructions always take precedence over any advice you receive from the EWC. If you have any questions, refer to your assignment guidelines first and don’t hesitate to ask your professor to clarify any unanswered questions.

**Assignment Management**

Thank you for submitting the assignment requirements, Corey! Our goal is to ensure that your paper meets your professor’s assignment requirements as closely as possible, so this information is a big help! 😊

Below is a table with an overview of your assignment, what you have completed, and what you need to fulfill the requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Requires</th>
<th>You Have</th>
<th>You Need</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluate 3 digital sources.

You evaluate 3 sources.

Improve organization and development where needed.

| APA          | A good start | Format your title page per APA style guidelines. |

**Thesis & Organization**

**Goals:**

- Articulate your thesis, argument, main idea, and/or purpose clearly.
- Organize your document or presentation in a manner that promotes understanding.

**Introduction Paragraph**

Corey, it looks like your introduction paragraph needs some work. The introduction is your chance to introduce both the topic and the thesis, and give your reader the information they need to understand your essay.

A typical introduction paragraph consists of 4 parts:

- an opening statement (usually something eye-catching, such as an important statistic)
- background information on your topic
- a transition statement leading into your thesis
- the thesis statement itself.

Let’s look at what you have so far:

For the project proposal, I **am interested in** the topic of advancement and use of cellular technology, specifically, cellular phones. While there are several uses for cellular phones, I want to focus on three major categories including personal, work, and emergency contexts. However, the increasing use of cell phones has created harmful side effects including disorders that this
Cellular phones have become an indispensable part of modern life, and I want to explore how its use can be further advanced or improved in aforementioned three areas.

You’re off to a good start here, Corey, but it looks like your information needs to be organized more effectively, from the broadest idea down to the narrowest idea (thesis statement).

The broadest idea seems to be the text in blue, followed by the text in green. After this, the focus should be narrowed down to the idea in purple. The narrowest point – the thesis statement in yellow – should be the last section of the introduction. (Typically, you should avoid referring to yourself the way you do in the bold sections, unless your instructor has approved this style of writing.)

It might help to think of your introduction as a funnel, with the broadest point being narrowed down to the most specific:

- Broad
- Less broad
- More specific: transition into thesis statement
- Most specific: your thesis statement

Here’s an example of an introduction for a proposal using the color code above:

Nuclear power plants produce more than 20 percent of the electricity used in the United States (Murray, 1989). Unfortunately, nuclear fission, the process used to create this large amount energy, creates significant amounts of high level radioactive waste. More than 30,000 metric tons of nuclear waste have arisen from U.S. commercial reactors as well as high level nuclear weapons waste, such as uranium and plutonium (Roush, 1995). Because of the build-up of this waste, some power plants will be forced to shut down. To avoid losing an important source of energy, a safe and economical place to keep this waste is necessary. This document proposes a literature review of whether Yucca Mountain is a suitable site for a nuclear waste repository. The proposed review will discuss the economic and environmental aspects of a national storage facility. This proposal includes my methods for gathering information, a schedule for completing the review, and my qualifications.

Note how the paragraph begins with a broad statement (blue section) and continues with some background information (green section). The author then narrows the
focus (purple section) before transitioning smoothly into the thesis statement (yellow section).

Corey, here is a video tutorial on writing introduction paragraphs. It contains information on:

- Some possibilities for introductions
- Sample introductions
- Things to avoid when writing introductions

Development & Research
Goals:

- Develop coherent paragraphs, points, and/or sections so that each is internally unified and functions as a part of your entire document or presentation.
- Tailor your communications to the audience.
- Provide sufficient support for your ideas
- Integrate material from research (if required) smoothly into your own content.

Organization & Development
Corey, it also looks like you could use some help with organizing and developing some of your bulleted content.

With this in mind, let’s look at a section from your draft:

- Peng Sha is a graduate of Southwest University, China, and has authored 8 articles and co-authored 33 articles published various peer-reviewed journals
Rayna Sariyska is a graduate of Institute of Psychology and Education, Ulm University, Germany, has authored 21 articles, and co-authored 60 articles published in several peer-reviewed journals. Other authors have similar credentials.

First, you will want to make sure that each bullet point is fully developed. The yellow section needs to be rewritten so that it contains the blue text below, which makes it complete:

Peng Sha is a graduate of Southwest University, China, and has authored 8 articles, co-authored 33 articles, and published various peer-reviewed journals.

The gray section should probably be placed in a separate bullet point, since it is not information about Rayna Sariyska.

The most effective way to organize the content of your essay is to develop an outline. This will help you evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of both your organization and your argument.

Here is a link to more information on outlining.

**Formatting & Citations**

Goals:

- Format paper according to the rules of required style.
- Cite sources according to the rules of your required style.

**Title Page**

Corey, your title page also needs some work. Per APA style guidelines, your title page should contain:

- Title of paper
- Your name
- School name
- Running head
With this in mind, let’s look at what you have so far:

Project Proposal: The Advancement and Use of Cellular Technology

Corey Mackey

HIST 125 – Technological Transformations

Prof. Madden

Source Evaluation

June 29, 2019

The text highlighted in yellow is unnecessary (unless your instructor has requested it.) Remove this text and place your school’s name under your name. All of this information should be double-spaced.

Here’s a sample APA title page:

Running head: TITLE OF PAPER
The video below contains information you will find useful as you create your title page. It includes information on:

- Title page
- Running head
- Numbering pages

**Grammar & Mechanics**

Goals:

- Use sentence structure appropriate for your task, message, and audience.
- Follow conventions of Standard Written English.

**Pronoun/Antecedent Agreement**

Corey, it also looks like you could use some help with making pronouns and antecedents agree. A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun. Many pronouns have antecedents, nouns or pronouns to which they refer. A noun and its antecedent agree when they are *both singular* or *both plural*. Here’s an example from your draft of a pronoun and antecedent that do not agree:

Cellular phones have become an indispensable part of modern life, and I want to explore how its use can be further advanced or improved in aforementioned three areas.
Here you have a singular pronoun (its) and a plural antecedent (cellular phones). For these to agree, the pronoun must be changed to its plural form:

Cellular phones have become an indispensable part of modern life, and I want to explore how their use can be further advanced or improved in aforementioned three areas.

Here’s another example to further illustrate the pronoun/antecedent rule. Since an organization is a singular noun, its pronoun should also be singular:

The NAACP is an organization. It is well known for its support of African-Americans.

However, when discussing this organization in a plural form, you would need to change the pronoun to match the antecedent:

The leaders of the NAACP are tireless activists. They continue to fight for equality.

Be sure to proofread your draft for pronouns and antecedents that do not agree.

Here is the link to a handout on pronoun-antecedent agreement.

**Comma Splices**
Corey, another problem I’d like to point out is the *comma splice*. These are independent clauses that have not been joined correctly. The comma splice is important for writers to avoid because readers have to know where one sentence ends and the next one begins. Here’s an example of a comma splice from your draft:

James Bucki is the Director of computing technology at Genesee Community College in New York, completed his MBA from State University of New York.

Here we have two independent clauses that have been incorrectly joined by a comma. To correct this particular error, these clauses should be separated by a period:
James Bucki is the Director of computing technology at Genesee Community College in New York. He completed his MBA from State University of New York.

Be sure to proofread your entire draft for comma splices.

There are 3 ways to correct a comma splice:

- By using a period. This is the most basic way to punctuate:
  This is a sentence. This is a sentence.

- By using a semi colon. It acts like a period, by separating closely related coordinate clauses:
  This is a sentence; this is a sentence (notice how the word immediately following the semi colon is not capitalized)

- By using a comma, followed by a conjunction like “and”:
  This is a sentence, and this is a sentence.

If you follow these 3 patterns, you will always be able to punctuate sentences correctly.

Here is a video tutorial on comma splices. It contains information on:

- The importance of sentence punctuation
- How to correct comma splices

Good luck! As you continue your work on this project, be sure to:

1. Fix your title page.
2. Work on your introduction.
3. Improve organization & development where needed.
4. Make sure pronouns and antecedents agree.
5. Proofread for comma splices.

Corey, it’s been my pleasure assisting you with your paper, and I invite you to resubmit any time. Good luck! 😊

Writing Advisor:

Chris Reed

The Effective Writing Center
www.umgc.edu/ewc

University of Maryland Global Campus
3501 University Boulevard East, Adelphi, Maryland 20783

More Resources

For more information on the Effective Writing Center’s services, follow this link.
To join us for EWC Live Workshops in Google Hangouts, click on this link.