



Writing a College Essay: A Checklist

- ◆ Have you thoroughly understood the prompt or teacher's instructions?
- ◆ Have you responded appropriately to those instructions?
- ◆ Have you stated a clear purpose or central idea?
- ◆ Have you offered a purposeful and useful introduction?
- ◆ Have you provided plenty of supportive detail?
- ◆ Have you structured your paper so that each paragraph has its own topic and each paragraph follows logically from the one before it?
- ◆ Have you created transitions to provide for a smooth movement from one paragraph to the next?
- ◆ Have you provided an adequate sense of closure, a closing that reflects on what you have learned?
- ◆ Have you used language that is precise and appropriate to your subject and audience?
- ◆ If required to use outside sources, have you integrated that material seamlessly within your own writing?
- ◆ Have you, in that case, cited your source in the format required by your instructor and by the discipline in which you are writing?