Paper Writing Checklist

Title

What is your paper’s title? ________________________________

Does it tell the reader what your paper is about?

Introduction

What is the thesis (or main point) of your paper? Have you stated it as clearly as you can?

Does the introduction grab the reader’s attention?

Does the reader know what to expect from your paper?

Discussion

Does each paragraph have a topic sentence?

What is your supporting evidence?

Do you have transitional phrases or words between the big ideas of your paper?

Does each sentence say exactly what you mean?

Do all of the sentences in a paragraph relate to the paragraph’s topic sentence?

Do all of the topic sentences of your paper relate to the thesis?

Are there places where your paper is wordy or has unnecessary information?

Have you carefully checked punctuation and spelling?

If you use sources, are they cited properly?

Conclusion

Does your conclusion relate to your thesis? How?

Does it answer the question “So What?”?

Have you read your paper aloud to a friend to see if your ideas are clear to others?