

Common Writing Issues

American History Honors
Paper 1: Colonial Superlatives
Submitted August 30, 2010

Spelling/Grammar

- Spell words correctly! (-1 pt. for spelling error)
- Led vs. Lead (will deduct in future)
- Homophones (will deduct in future)
- Use past tense for history!
- No contractions... they aren't necessary 😊 (will deduct in future)
- ALWAYS use third person (major academic rule)
 - No 1st/2nd unless it is personal
 - No we, us, our...



Format

- Even though this is electronic submission, proper MLA headings and format is expected
- CITATIONS MUST ALWAYS BE USED
 - Any specific information must be cited, regardless if it is quoted or not
 - In-text citation example (Danzer 36).
 - A works cited page is also required
- Paraphrasing (danger zone – don't accidentally plagiarize)
- Avoid long quotes
- Spell out numbers less than 100



Argument

- Always present a clear argument (thesis) that can be proved throughout the rest of the paper
- If you are arguing for the “best colonial leader” or “worst disaster,” **always** connect the evidence you present (i.e. specific historical examples) back to the main argument. In other words, how do the facts you include prove the argument? How does this event or colony stand apart from other events/colonies/etc?
 - I.E. Pennsylvania = best settlement; provide good reasons but also argue persuasively as to how it was better than other colonies



Submission

- You are responsible for knowing due dates
- You are responsible for making sure your paper actually is submitted (double check)
- You are responsible for receiving and reading your originality report – IT MUST BE GREEN!