

Guide to Response Symbols

(Please ASK if, after you've read about the particular error in your blue Style Sheet booklet, you're still unsure about what it means. My corrections are meant to help you improve your writing in general, not just your writing for my class.)

Abbreviation	Problem	Page in Hamilton College Style Sheet
agr	incorrect agreement between subject & verb or between pronoun & antecedent	13
anth	anthropomorphizing (attributing human capacities or qualities to inhuman objects; e.g., "The theory says...". Better: "According to the theory...")	
awk	awkward phrasing	
ca	incorrect case (I/me, we/us, she/her, he/him, who/whom)	13-14
cg	problem with congruity (includes incomplete/incongruous comparisons, shift in person, shift in number, shift in tense, etc.)	18-19
cit	citation (reference) needed	27
comp	finish the comparison (used less/more, higher/lower, etc. without saying less or more than what)	18, #2
cont	avoid using contractions in formal writing	
d	error of diction (incorrect word choice; e.g., affect vs. effect, its vs. it's, less vs. fewer, while vs. whereas or although, since vs. because)	22-23
da	dangling elements (e.g., "In reading over my paper, it was clear that it needed some work.")	16
inc	incomplete sentence	9
mm	misplaced modifier (e.g., "To measure self-esteem, the participants will complete..." Better: "To measure self-esteem, the experimenters will distribute...")	17
mw	missing word	
ONW!	omit needless words!	22
¶	new paragraph needed	24
pl	sentence is not parallel in form	14-15
poss	possessive (incorrect apostrophe)	8

Guide to Psychology-Specific Corrections (including APA style)

alph	alphabetize references in parentheses <i>or</i> alphabetize references in reference section
caps	capitalize running head
males/females	use “men” and “women”
part	use “participants” instead of “subjects” when referring to humans (Often, I’ll abbreviate participants as “Ps”).
sp	no extra space needed (everything should simply be double-spaced)