

EXAMPLES OF ONLINE TUTOR SESSIONS
LYNN HOUSTON

Hi Kristen,

Thank you so much for submitting your paper to the online JLC. I enjoyed reading your essay on the NFL's handling of the player protests during the national anthem. Your sentences seem to flow well and you present the current event in a clear and compelling fashion.

CONTENT DEVELOPMENT

You've asked for help on content development. Looking at the instructor's rubric, I think that two elements could use some additional thoughts--1) background on the NFL and 2) the application of the CAGE (or other) model.

1) You discuss the protest and President Trump's tweets, but we don't get a lot of history in understanding who the NFL is as a business. The paragraph you devote to that begins to talk about the ritual of the Super Bowl as a holiday in American culture--can you bring that paragraph back to the business strategies of the NFL?

2) You only mention the CAGE model in the very last paragraph of your paper, and you do not offer a comprehensive definition to show that you know what it means. Walk us through each aspect--C--A--G--E--and tell us how each one of them applies to this current event.

APA STYLE

I'm not seeing parenthetical citations for quotes you use--APA style asks that you place in parentheses the author last name, the year, and the page number when you use a direct quote. Also, your references list is not properly formatted. Here is what a standard APA reference should look like:

Berndt, T. J. (2002). Friendship quality and social development. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 11, 7-10.

All lines after the first one should be indented (like the reverse version of a body paragraph, which only has the first line indented).

To fix your references list, you will need to go back to your sources and find some additional information and place it in the correct order. Here is a website that offers a sample APA paper:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/18/>

GRAMMAR

Your paper could use another read-through--I found a few typos (repeated words, misspelled words--look for the squiggles under the word in your word-processing program), as well as at least one sentence fragment. A sentence fragment occurs when you are missing either a subject or verb for the sentence. This often happens when "dependent" words are involved--look up a list of dependent words and make sure that any dependent clauses are attached to a complete sentence (with a viable subject and verb). Here is an example of a sentence fragment from your paper:

According to NFL media analyst Ian Rapoport, the NFL is looking "to move from protest to progress, working to bring people together." Which is a smart idea because the root of the protests was racism and unjust, and the NFL is trying to support unity which is great for everybody.

In this example, the word "which" is a dependent word, so everything attached to it is part of a dependent clause. You can fix this error by attaching the dependent clause to the previous sentence. Change the period to a comma. Review your paper for other errors like this one and fix them in a similar manner.

Please let me know if I can answer any additional questions for you. Good luck with your revision!

All best,
Lynn Houston
Writing Tutor

Dear Erin,

Thank you for submitting your paper to the online JLC. It was a pleasure to read your essay on U.S. healthcare. You do a good job of giving APA parenthetical citations!

THESIS

I'm not seeing a thesis statement anywhere in your paper that would sum up the overall claims of your argument. Usually, we find a thesis statement at the end of the introduction paragraph. For a paper assignment like this one, a thesis would be one sentence that communicates to your reader the conclusion you have drawn from studying these healthcare statistics.

Currently, this is the final sentence of your introductory paragraph:

Healthcare insurance and access to healthcare are both topics that have been focused on a lot lately due to the Affordable Care Act that was put into effect.

Based on the paper assignment, this sentence does not report on the overall analysis of U.S. healthcare statistics versus other countries. Instead, it seems to belong better to a paper on the ACA. How can you put into one sentence the results of all of your findings for this paper?

The thesis should summarize the overall argument of your paper. Each topic sentence should then be able to fit under that "umbrella" of the thesis. Therefore, if your thesis for a paper on the effectiveness of Sacred Heart University was "Sacred Heart is a great college because of X, Y, and Z," then the topic sentences of body paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 would probably examine topics X, Y, and Z, respectively. This is one way to successfully organize a scholarly paper.

TOPIC SENTENCES

Related to the above, your topic sentences are inconsistent. Some are very well done, and respond to a portion of your thesis, identifying the main idea of your paragraph. Others are too general--if you took them out of the paper, they would not respond to the question asked. Your topic sentences should be mini thesis statements, basically thesis statements for that paragraph, bringing your ideas back to the assignment prompt.

Here's an example of one working well: "Obesity is a huge problem in the United States." This responds well to your thesis and to the assignment.

Here's a topic sentence that needs revision: "Accessing healthcare is something that is much easier when one has insurance."

Do you see the difference? The first one names a category that will be examined in the paragraph and makes an assertion about the U.S. compared to other countries. The second one

is very general. How can you make the second one comparable to the first one? What is the relationship between U.S. health insurance compared to other countries?

TRANSITIONS

Some of your sentences could use better transitions. Transitions are words or phrases that help your reader follow the logic between your ideas. Without transitions, your reader might lose track of how your argument is progressing. Here is an example of two sentences that require a better "road map" for your reader:

The number of uninsured is decreasing in America making it a little easier for some to access healthcare because they will have less of an out of pocket cost. Obesity is a huge issue in the United States that continues to be a concern to many.

In the above example, you jump abruptly between the concept of healthcare and obesity. How are the two related? A brief phrase at the beginning of the second sentence will help your reader better following the sequence of your ideas. Look for more moments like this in your paper.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

All best,
Lynn Houston
Writing Tutor

Dear Julia,

Thank you for submitting your paper to the online JLC. It was a pleasure to read your essay on U.S. healthcare. You do a good job at including successful topic sentences at the beginning of each paragraph! Your topic sentences correspond to the paper assignment and communicate the main idea of the paragraph to the reader.

THESIS

I'm not seeing a thesis statement anywhere in your paper that would sum up the overall claims of your argument. Usually, we find a thesis statement at the end of the introduction paragraph. For a paper assignment like this one, a thesis would be one sentence that communicates to your reader the conclusion you have drawn from studying these healthcare statistics.

Currently, this is the final sentence of your introductory paragraph:

The rates for each disease vary from country to country based on several different factors.

Based on the paper assignment, this sentence does not report on the overall analysis of U.S. healthcare statistics versus other countries. Instead, it seems too broad. You mention "each disease" in this sentence, but don't give us an indication in the introduction of which diseases will be addressed in your paper. How can you put into one sentence the results of all of your findings for this paper?

The thesis should summarize the overall argument of your paper. Each topic sentence should then be able to fit under that "umbrella" of the thesis. Therefore, if your thesis for a paper on the effectiveness of Sacred Heart University was "Sacred Heart is a great college because of X, Y, and Z," then the topic sentences of body paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 would probably examine topics X, Y, and Z, respectively. Your topic sentences do a good job of presenting an X, Y, and Z, but we are missing the overall perspective in a thesis.

APA Citations

I see many statistics used in your paper. Did you get these from research you did? If so, you need to cite your sources using APA style. Failure to do so is technically plagiarism. Here is a website that shows the two ways you need to cite outside research--with a parenthetical citation after you paraphrase or quote, and with a references list at the end of your paper:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>

For example, you state that "For every 100,000 people, it is estimated that 318 will be diagnosed with cancer." A proper APA style citation for a website would include the author last name (if available) and the year the information was update on the internet, like this: "For every 100,000 people, it is estimated that 318 will be diagnosed with cancer (Author, year)." Then, your references list would include an entry for this source (please see the above link to Purdue OWL for more help on references pages).

SENTENCE STRUCTURE/FRAGMENTS

Your paper could use another read-through--I found a few typos (misspelled words--look for the squiggles under the word in your word-processing program), as well as at least one sentence fragment. A sentence fragment occurs when you are missing either a subject or verb for the sentence.

The second "sentence" below is an example of a sentence fragment in your paper:

Puerto Rico is ranked at number fifty and diagnoses 211.1
people out of every 100,000.

In this example, the second "sentence" is a fragment because it is missing a verb. You can fix this error by adding one to the sentence--1 person does what (out of every 100,000)? You might say "One out of 100,000 people will contract cancer." Review your paper for other errors like this one and fix them in a similar manner.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

All best,
Lynn Houston
Writing Tutor

Dear Danielle,

Thank you for submitting your paper to the online JLC. It was a pleasure to read your essay on U.S. healthcare. You do a great job with APA citation, both in the parenthetical citations and in the references page! Many students have problems figuring out proper APA style. It's great that you know how to do it well. Keep up the good work!

CONTENT DEVELOPMENT

You've asked for help with content development. One of the things I notice is a discrepancy between the paper assignment and what's covered in your paper. The paper asks for you to comment on the

comparison between U.S. health statistics and those for other countries. I don't see any other countries mentioned in your paper. To fix this, you will have to go back and do additional research to include in your paper. Once you do that, you are probably going to need to tweak your thesis (which is normally the last sentence of your introduction) because your focus will have changed slightly.

SENTENCE STRUCTURE/ RUN-ONS

Your paper could use another read-through--I found more than one run-on sentence. A run-on sentence occurs when you fail to properly end a sentence with the correct punctuation before beginning a new one. There are three ways to join two complete sentences: 1) with a period and a capital letter, 2) with a semi-colon, or 3) with a comma and a conjunction.

Here is an example of a run-on sentence from your paper:

Not only that but worldwide cancer cases are thought to increase by fifty percent, from fourteen million to twenty-one million and worldwide cancer deaths are thought to increase by sixty percent, from eight million to thirteen million.

In this example, you have two independent clauses (complete sentences) with no punctuation between them. "Cases are thought" is the subject and verb for the first sentence, and "death are thought" are the subject and verb for the second sentence. You can fix this error by any of the three methods described above.

1. Not only that, but worldwide cancer cases are thought to increase by fifty percent, from fourteen million to twenty-one million. Worldwide cancer deaths are thought to increase by sixty percent, from eight million to thirteen million. [Period and a capital]
2. Not only that, but worldwide cancer cases are thought to increase by fifty percent, from fourteen million to twenty-one million; worldwide cancer deaths are thought to increase by sixty percent, from eight million to thirteen million. [Semi-colon]
3. Not only that but worldwide cancer cases are thought to increase by fifty percent, from fourteen million to twenty-one million, and worldwide cancer deaths are thought to increase by sixty percent, from eight million to thirteen million. [Comma and conjunction]

Review your paper for other errors like this one and fix them in a similar manner.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

All best,
Lynn Houston
Writing Tutor