



Evaluating Your First Draft

Here's a list, check it twice, find out if your essay's naughty or nice. Evaluate every part of your essay before you give it to a friend or teacher to review.

Checked	What to Look For	Notes
	Thesis Statement: Is it an opinion that matters? Does the wording get to the heart of your argument?	
	Introduction: Does it grab the reader's attention? Does it give a context for your thesis?	
	Organization: Do you unpack your argument in a clear and streamlined way?	
	Topic Sentences: Does every paragraph introduce its contents precisely?	
	Use of Quotations: Do your quotations serve the argument in a meaningful way? Do you analyze them?	
	Conclusion: Does the conclusion summarize the main ideas of your paper? Does it encourage the reader to reflect?	
	Technicalities: Did you follow standard formatting rules? Do you use proper grammar and spelling?	