

This is our last seminar guide sheet focusing on grammar and writing mechanics. In addition to knowing the concepts covered by previous guide sheets, you should also know the following:

- Review misplaced and dangling modifiers (sections 35 and 36 in the Oxford *Handbook*).
- Understand how to correct the problem of having a preposition at the end of a sentence or clause (see page 170 of the Oxford *Handbook*). Note that a preposition is almost always followed by its object, unless doing so results in awkwardness or unnecessary formality.
- Review the MLA rules for referring to the title of a work (in print or visual media) in an essay (see section 59 of the Oxford *Handbook*): the title is either italicized (for such things as books, plays, and book-length poems) or placed in quotation marks (for such things as poems, essays, and short stories).
- Note that one should not intermingle double quotation marks (“ ”) and single quotation marks (‘ ’) in an essay: use double quotation marks throughout, except for quotations within quotations (where you would use single quotation marks). If you want to draw attention to a word as a word, either place the “word” in double quotation marks or italicize the *word*.

Proof-read the short essay on the next page. In doing so, you need to identify the grammar and writing mechanics errors by circling or underlining them and by labeling them. These are the errors you should look for and the labels you should use:

frag	sentence fragment
cs	comma splice
fs	fused sentence
split	split infinitive
sp	spelling error
s-v	subject-verb agreement error
poss	incorrect possessive
apos	incorrect apostrophe use
dm	dangling modifier (such as dangling participle)
mm	misplaced modifier
prep	preposition at end of sentence or clause
ital	italics are needed
rom	italics are not needed (Roman font is needed)

In addition, quotation marks errors should be identified by fixing the quotation marks (by writing in the marks where they are needed). Other errors you find can be circled. You do not need to correct the errors when you proof-read the following, though you should understand how to correct the errors.

In seminar, go over your proof-reading work with the class. Ask for any clarifications that you need.

A Brief History of English and Its Literature

The history's of the English language and English literature are fascinating. While the English language was born earlier; the first written document we have in English dates from the year 700 C.E. around. One of the earliest known pieces of English Writing is a short poem that we have called "Caedmon's Hymn." Written in 'Old English,' the Bible's story of the creation is recounted. Many of the earliest-surviving works written in English religious subjects. Perhaps the greatest surviving work from this Old English period is the poem *Beowulf*, epic, which recounts the rise and fall of a great Danish warrior, including his fights with 'monsters' and a dragon. There are also some very good short lyric poems, such as *Deor*.

Having conquered England in 1066, the English language changed considerably as a result of the new, French influence. The year of the Norman Conquest marks the beginning of the Middle English period of the language, the works written in English start to show remarkable changes from their predecessors. It is the importation of the concept of romantic love to which Middle English literature owes a lot of its debt to. Works such as Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales," a large though incomplete collection of long poems, clearly exemplifies the importance of a shift in European society from religion as the dominant feature in people's lives to interpersonal relationships. The chivalric romance; however, unites religion and love, such as "Sir Gawain."

With the invention of the printing press, the English language changed again, becoming Early Modern English; which is very similar to the English spoken today. There was a proliferation of writing at this time, both scholarly and creative; and English literature became and still are the largest body of literature in the world. While lots of the literature was devoted to carefully and intelligently understand the Christian religion, such as Milton's "Paradise Lost", a lot was also devoted to understanding humanity and the 'human condition.' Poetry and non-fictional prose were still the principle forms of writing. Fictional prose only started gaining in prominence at the beginning of the eighteenth century, when Early Modern English had clearly given way to Modern English. Novels, such as "Moll Flanders" and 'Emma,' became very popular among readers', and indeed there was a large reading culture that they gave birth to.

What will become of the English language and its literature, now that books are being replaced by e-books, and the time people would have spent reading novels is now spent reading "Facebook"? Well see!