



# Bingham's Avoid List

These are a few tips for academic writing. When I grade, I expect that you will not commit these errors. These are good rules for not only my class, but all classes in general.



1. Do not ever use an exclamation point, or a question mark  
Unless it is from a quote, or it is in creative writing.



2. **ELLIPSIS** at the end of a quote

3. Slang

4. Odd Capitalization (It looks Really Silly.)

5. **Bold**

6. *Italics*

7. Underlining

8. Fail to read the directions to an essay.

9. **D**i**F**fer**e**n**t** fo**N**Ts (the only acceptable font is Times New Roman, 12 pt)

10. Opinions (The Egyptians were awesome!)

11. Starting too many sentences with the same word (The room...The house...The family...)

12. Never write any of the following words: I, me, you, us, we, the reader, the author, maybe, got, seemed, thing, show, whatever, I think, sort of, well, so, very, bad, good.

13. Abbreviations, unless you first introduce them. For example, never say U.S.A., unless you first say "The United States of America (U.S.A.)"

14. Over quoting (2/3 rule—this means two lines per quote, three quotes per page)

15. Quoting, when you can paraphrase

16. Forget to give proper credit to an author

17. Never forget to include a thesis

18. Do not forget to have transitions between paragraphs

19. Email slang (lol, omg, etc.)

20. Unsubstantiated ideas (The Italian Renaissance was the best ever because it had a lot of great stuff. The art was cool, and the people were very smart. I really liked the Mona Lisa because it was well done. It was also great because there were new ideas and inventions.)