



TOUCHSTONE 5 CHECKLIST

Refer to the checklist below throughout the writing process. Do not submit your Touchstone until your paragraph meets all guidelines.

Argumentative Topic and Thesis Statement

- Have you included a thesis that takes a clear, specific position on one side of a debatable issue?

Argument Development

- Are all of the details relevant to the purpose of your essay?
- Is the argument supported using rhetorical appeals and source material?
- Is your essay 4-6 pages (approximately 1000-1500 words)? If not, which details do you need to add or delete?

Research

- Have you cited outside sources effectively using quotation, summary, or paraphrase?
- Are the sources incorporated smoothly, providing the reader with signal phrases and context for the source information?
- Have you referenced a range of 2-4 credible sources?
- Have you included an APA style reference page below your essay?

Organization and Flow

- Is there an introduction, conclusion, adequate body paragraphs, and a counterargument?
- Is the argument presented in a logical order and easy for the reader to follow?
- Are there transitions within and between paragraphs?

Style

- Are the word choices accurate and effective?
- Are the sentence structures varied?



Conventions and Formatting

- Have you properly cited your sources according to APA style guidelines?
- Have you double-checked for correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, formatting, and capitalization?
- Have you proofread for typos?

Before You Submit

- Have you answered all of the Think About Your Writing questions on a separate page below your reference page? Are your answers thoughtful and included insights, observations, and/or examples in all responses?
- Does your submission include your essay, followed by your reference page, followed by your Think About Your Writing questions?