AP Essay Boo-Boos 

1. **Point of View**-Do not use 1st person when you write formal papers-use 3rd person. (The pronoun “one” can be used instead of “I” or “We,” but ideally, rephrase to avoid a pronoun altogether.)
2. **Subpar CMs**-Commentary is shallow, obvious, or just a paraphrasing of the evidence-consult and memorize the “stretching your CMs” information in your ***Writing Manual.***
3. **Plot summary**-don’t retell the story-select short CDs that best support your thesis, lead into them, quote them, and lead out into analysis which is where you should spend the **bulk** of your time.
4. **OREO!**-Stick to the exact OREO formula *(TS, CD, CM, CM repeated thrice with CVs and transitions to help you flow from one idea to another)* until you get at least a score of 7; then you can experiment with adding CDs and CMs and rearranging the order of CDs and CMs. Let’s get the rudiments down first! See ***Writing Manual*** OREO info.
5. **Pronoun no-nos**-Do not begin a sentence with demonstrative pronouns *(this, that, these, those)* or the pronoun “it” **followed by a verb**. Instead, follow pronouns with **specific nouns**. Also, do not begin a sentence with “There is/was” or “There are/were.”
6. **Weak Words**-Do not use the following “weak” generic, 1st grade words unless they are in a direct textual quote: very, thing(s), a lot, stuff, many, cool (as in groovy), sad, nice, bad, good, positive, negative. Also use the word “soul” sparingly! Writers tend to use it with clichéd and cheesy results.
7. **Quote Bombs!** Lead in and lead out of EMBEDDED quotes-see ***tutorial*** ***video in Weebly Resources***.
8. **Opening/Closing**-Remember to use opening and closing strategies-posted on ***Weebly Resources***.
9. **Passive v. Active Voice**-Don’t use passive voice-review ***Writing Manual*** to see how to change passive to active voice.
10. **Transitions**-Remember to use standard transitions within and paragraph hooks between paragraphs in your essays. See ***Writing Manual.***
11. **Titles**-Although titles are not recommended on the timed AP essays, put a good title on your process essays for class.
12. **COLORIZE**-To visually see the elements in your essays, use different colors to high-lite the following elements in your essay: AT&T (AUTHOR/TITLE&THESIS, TOPIC SENTENCES FOR EACH OREO, CDS (DIRECT QUOTES, PARAPHRASES, SUMMARIES), CMS, CVS, AND TRANSITIONS (STANDARD AND PARAGRAPH HOOKS) AND CONCLUDING SENTENCES IN THE OREOS. Then assess: what are you missing? Do you have double the CM (analysis) for each CD (evidence)? Are you missing transitions? Have you used a variety of CV (commentary verbs)? Are your CMs subpar as explained in #2?
13. **MLA format**-See the ***OWL*** (Online Writing Lab) from Purdue University <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01> to see how you use **in text citations** and a **works cited page** as well as how to format all pages.
14. **Titles and quotes**-Underline or *italicize* titles of novels and plays; put quotation marks around poems
15. **Subpar Sytax**-Clunky, odd, wordy, ambiguous, redundant and/or awkward wording
16. **No Rah! Rah!** Don’t “cheerlead” the author or the work, using words like “universal masterpiece” or “fabulous,” or “best author in the freakin’ world.”
17. **Slang and Cliché**-NO.