

*What the teachers look for when they grade your paper, and what the second reader / supervisor read for in your thesis. A checklist for worried writers.*

Content and form (pick/tick all 17 cherries before submitting):

#### PAPER TOPIC

- @ Is the paper about the topic it claims to be on (judging by the title)?
- @ Is the paper/thesis clear and purposeful?
- @ Is the research question clear and a reasonable one – and are we given any relevant conclusions, answers or even further elaborated research questions at the end of the paper/thesis?

#### RELEVANCE

- @ Does the paper/thesis contribute to the development or establishment of knowledge in the area?

#### ANALYSIS

- @ Are all the important course works, debates or arguments that are relevant to the paper/thesis covered?
- @ Is there unnecessary clutter? E.g. analytically unemployed theories (mentioned initially but never returning in the analysis or at the end) or empirical material that does not really provide the presentation with anything new or useful?
- @ Are the facts right? (Check the sources!)
- @ Are the sources treated correctly? Are they respectfully “earned”, that is, worked with and commented upon, throughout the paper/thesis?
- @ Are the conclusions and assessments made correctly *on the basis of the arguments and material presented in the thesis/paper*?
- @ Is there something essential missing in the line of argument?
- @ Would other assessments and conclusions be possible on the basis of the arguments and the material that have been presented in the thesis/paper?

#### PRESENTATION

- @ Is the craft of scholarship (literary style and order of arguments, references, quotes and sources) well executed and at the necessary level?
- @ Did you prevent plagiarism from happening? In other words: did you give credit where credit is due?
- @ Is the presentation clear and pedagogical? (English language check is always needed! And what about the style of writing? Mind to always write as for peers, for fellow students, who need at least as much explanation as you once did or more for grasping the relevance and consistency of your argument.)
- @ Is it clear by the presentation what is to be regarded as ‘general facts’, arguments from other sources and opinions of the author?
- @ Is the bibliography complete?
- @ Do the written paragraphs and text size, lay-out and editing contribute to the paper’s accessibility?
- @ Do the pictures, figures or tables contribute to the argument? (Pictures should for instance never be used as mere decoration – but commented upon, referenced and discussed.)

#### FOR MA1 STUDENTS, DO NOT FORGET

- @ to regularly consult the MA1 writing manual, and
- @ to submit your thesis in electronic form to the Arts Library, after it has been graded.