REVISION CHECKLIST FOR ANALYTIC/ARGUMENT ESSAYS

1. Is my topic debatable?
2. Does my essay include an effective argumentative thesis?
   Writing checklist: identifying an effective thesis
   • Does my thesis clearly communicate my essay's main idea?
   • Does it suggest the approach I will take toward my material?
   • Does it reflect my essay's purpose?
   • Is my thesis more than a title, a statement of fact, or an announcement of my subject?
   • Is my thesis carefully worded?
   • Does my thesis accurately predict my essay's direction, emphasis, and scope?
3. Have I adequately defined the terms I use in my argument?
4. Have I considered the opinions, attitudes, and values of my audience?
5. Have I identified and refuted opposing arguments?
6. Have I supported my assertions with evidence?
   Guidelines for establishing my credibility
   FINDING COMMON GROUND
   • Identify the various sides of an issue.
   • Identify the points on which I and my readers are in agreement.
   • Work the areas of agreement into my argument.
   DEMONSTRATING KNOWLEDGE
   • Include relevant personal information.
   • Include relevant special knowledge of my subject.
   • Include the results of any relevant research I have done.
   MAINTAINING A REASONABLE TONE
   • Use a confident tone.
   • Avoid sounding high-handed or pedantic.
   • Use moderate language and qualify my statements.
8. Have I been fair and accurate?
9. Are my arguments logically constructed and have I avoided logical fallacies?
10. Does the structure of my essay suit my material and my audience?
11. Have I provided my readers with enough background information?
12. Do I present my points clearly and organize them logically?
13. Do I have an engaging and interesting introduction and a strong conclusion?