

A Key to My Grading Marks

This is not a standard set of editing marks – if you are familiar with standard editing marks, please pay careful attention to the way that I use these symbols.

The Marks:

- ✓ = a good point
- ? = this is confusing
- ! = this is surprising
- ?! = this is *really* confusing
- ↔? = these two things don't make sense together

Chr. = out of chronological order

Anachr. = anachronistic (typewriters in the 18th century, wristwatches in Ancient Greece)

X = an error in fact (I only bother to mark these when it is clear that you misunderstood something essential).

X = a huge error in fact (differs from a regular error in fact in that it implies that there is a great deal that you have misunderstood).

Rel? = what is the relevance of this?

¶ = need to start a new paragraph

No ¶ = no need to start a new paragraph

I usually underline the text that the mark refers to (like this). Double underlines (like this) help me keep the marks separate if they refer to nearby text. Squiggle underline (like this) means something about the phrase or sentence strikes me as odd or confusing.

Near the top or the bottom of your essay, I may use an acronym that describes the essay as a whole:

RQMC = Read the Question More Carefully.

RYtRE = Restrict Yourself to Relevant Evidence. *Used when a student does a "data dump" – if you include irrelevant details, it makes me wonder if you know the difference between relevant and irrelevant details.*

DDT = You Didn't Do This. *Usually directed at one part of a question.*

DGTF = You Didn't Get This Far. *Usually directed at one part of a question.*