Did not proofread your work for language and clarity.

Proofread (or *proof*) your work

Merriam Webster Online:

- "to read and correct mistakes in (a written or printed piece of writing)"
- "He proofread the essay carefully."

A brain trick for proofreading what you say for accuracy, good language, and for clarity

For accuracy of language used by the discipline of history

- 1. Have you spelled the word the way the source does? Example: Shays's Rebellion
- 2. Have you punctuated the word the way the source does? Example: 1660s (not 1660's)
- 3. Have you used the word the way the source does? Example: words such as *freeman*, *servant*, and *slave* have specific meanings in the discipline of history

For correct use of language in general

- 1. Run spell check and grammar check using your word processor. Do not accept every correction the software suggests. Click on the explanation to be sure.
- 2. Go to Turnitin and check the Grademark report for your paper
- 1. If some of your words are identified as incorrect sentences or unclear, then rewrite your sentences. Simple sentences are fine.

For clarity

- 1. Read aloud **each** syllable in your paper, ideally in a silly accent.
- 2. Your *ear* will notice omitted words, bad grammar, and errors in meaning that your *eye* will not.
- 3. Write the corrections on your printed paper that you must make.
- 4. Make them in your file.
- 5. Compare your printed page with your file to be sure you didn't make a new error.

All definitions are from the Merriam-Webster Online (http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary).

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