



## HOC & LOC Topic Descriptions

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### Higher Order Concerns

Higher Order Concerns (HOC) should be the priority during revision because they have the greatest impact on successful communication. Following is a list of HOCs and brief descriptions to help you choose online feedback.

#### Overall Argument

Feedback focuses on strength of evidence and how evidence relates back to the overall claim/thesis.

#### Thesis

Feedback focuses on how significant, arguable, and focused the thesis of your paper is. Additionally, how relevant your thesis is to the needs of the assignment/prompt will be reviewed.

#### Consistency of Argument

Feedback focuses on relevance and logic of each paragraph to the argument.

#### Supporting Points

Feedback focuses on how the supporting points address the main topic.

#### Assignment Organization

Feedback focuses on the movement between ideas, specifically looking for logical progression and transitions between ideas.

#### Paragraph Organization

Feedback focuses on how ideas are developed within paragraphs, specifically introducing and concluding ideas, strength of analysis/synthesis, and depth of explanations.

#### Introduction

Feedback focuses on how well the introduction creates interest, identifies the main point, provides necessary context/background info, and previews the essay.

#### Conclusion

Feedback focuses on the strength of the conclusion, specifically looking at connections to the thesis/research question and discussions of future implications.

#### Tone

Feedback focuses on consistency of disciplinary language and purpose of assignment/genre.

#### Genre Expectations

Feedback focuses on how well the writing fits with expectations of the genre and discipline (e.g. rhetorical analysis in English, biology lab report, educational research proposal).



## **Audience Awareness**

Feedback focuses on how effectively the argument/discussion/analysis addresses expectations of target audience, as well as how the information will engage the audience.

## **Analysis**

Feedback focuses examination of topic, relevant research, and interpretations, specifically looking for multiple perspectives including counterarguments (if applicable).

## **Synthesis**

Feedback focuses on use of different sources, research, or datasets in combination with each other to build a larger argument, point, or state of knowledge.

## **Examples & Explanation**

Feedback focuses on introduction and explanation of examples as well as range of examples and significance and relevancy of explanations.

## **Credibility of Sources**

Feedback focuses on currency of sources, relevance of sources to the claim/thesis (e.g. not just to the topic), authority of authors, publishers, and organizations related to the sources, and methodology (if possible) of relevant data used.

## **Integration of Sources**

Feedback focuses on reviewing sources relative to how well they are integrated within the text, including relevance to claim/thesis, introduction, and explanation.

## **Unity**

Feedback focuses on how well the supporting points follow the claim/thesis and the movement between ideas.

## **Assignment Purpose**

Feedback focuses on how well the paper addresses the overall questions or goals of the assignment, making comparisons to the prompt/rubric if it is available.

## **Readability**

Feedback focuses on examining how understandable and clear the content of the paper is.

## **Outline**

Feedback focuses on examining outlines for opportunities for expansion and development of ideas and how they are arranged.

## **Brainstorming**

Feedback focuses on the potential for starting points and ideas, pointing out opportunities for development and integration of research and evidence.



## Lower Order Concerns

Lower Order Concerns (LOC) are focused on sentence and word level concerns. Following is a list of LOCs and brief descriptions to help you choose online feedback.

### In-Text Citations

Feedback focuses on reviewing in-text citations for accuracy and formatting based on the publication/citation style being used (e.g., AMA, APA, MLA).

### References

Feedback focuses on examining formatting and arrangement of reference citation entries.

### Assignment Parameters

Feedback focuses on comparing the document with the assignment rubric (provided by the student), looking for adherence to assignment guidelines, such as source requirements, page length, section arrangement.

### Commas

Feedback focuses on examining if commas are being used correctly and appropriately.

### Noun-Verb Agreement

Feedback focuses on agreement between nouns and their associated verbs, such as plural versus singular.

### Sentence Variety

Feedback focuses on reviewing readability based on variations in sentence patterns in terms of length, construction, and word choice.

### Concision

Feedback focuses on using the most efficient and effective language choices, including pointing out unnecessary words, ineffective repetition words/patterns, and passive constructions (if genre appropriate).

### Clarity

Feedback focuses on examining word choice and patterns to determine where ideas are confusing or ambiguous.

### Article Usage

Feedback focuses on appropriate articles: *a*, *an*, and *the*.

### Prepositions

Feedback focuses on effective use of prepositions and prepositional phrases within the context of individual sentences.

### Specialty Punctuation

Feedback focuses on examining usage and opportunities related to punctuation such as semicolons, parentheses, em dashes, etc.



## **Paragraph Transitions**

Feedback focuses on movement between paragraphs, specifically how effectively logical order and transitions/transitional devices are used.

## **Sentence Transitions**

Feedback focuses on examining sentences for how well they follow a logical organization, providing options for integrating transitions/transitional devices.

## **Sentence Structure**

Feedback focuses on examining sentence structures to ensure they follow clear organizational patterns and that component parts of speech (e.g. nouns, verbs) are effectively used.