

# Essay Writing Checklist

## Organization

- I have a thesis that is a clear, complex sentence in my introduction.

*Complex Sentence = Independent Clause + Dependent Clause(s)*

- I have strong topic sentences that support the thesis.
- I have a conclusion that restates my thesis in new terms.

## Body Paragraphs

- I have a clear topic sentence.
- I have two to three sets of CERs supporting the topic sentence.

*CER = Claim + Evidence + Rationale*

- I have transitions that show the relationship between ideas.
- I have a conclusion that relates back to my thesis statement.

## Sentences

- I have used a variety of sentences (simple, complex, compound).
- I have used precise words (do not use vague words, such as “a lot”, “kind of”, “things”).
- I have used correct punctuation and grammar.
- I have cited sources correctly.

## Examples of Subordinating Conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions show the relationship between the two parts of a complex sentence.

after	just as	so that
although	now	supposing
as	now since	than
as a result of	now that	that
as if	now when	though
as long as	once	unless
as much as	provided that	until
as though	rather than	when
because	since	where
before	so that	whereas
even	supposing	whether
even if	than	which
even though	rather than	while
if	since	who
in order that	so that	whose
	since	

## Examples of Simple, Compound, and Complex Sentences

- **Simple:**  
I walked to the store.
- **Compound:**  
It was a beautiful day, so I walked to the store.
- **Complex:**  
Because it was a beautiful day, I walked to the store.