

General observations

It will probably come as a surprise to many if you that so many people in your classes – including some high performing students – have fared so poorly in Academic Essay.

First of all, I have to say that I am as disappointed by this as you are.

You might think: I submitted a voluminous folder, my essay totals 10 pages, the bibliography has the 10 titles required... so where did I go wrong?

It is a tad difficult to determine a generic pattern or formula for failure found in these papers. But, nonetheless, here are some of the most frequent causes:

1. The WORKS CITED (=Bibliography). Here the observance of the rules was essential. Putting together a bibliography is a matter of precision and constancy. The presence of each of the elements (place, publisher, year, page range...), the order of those elements, the exact punctuation – all these were crucial. You were losing ¼ point for every missing element, every entry not alphabetized, every misplaced element, every punctuation mark misused.

A very common errors consisted in listing websites separately without any details except the web address (*http://www.thatwaswrong.com*)

2. The PARENTETICAL REFERENCES (in the text). Common errors: Web addresses written in full instead of the (*Author, Webpage*) or (*Author Year*) format. References that include both names of the author (*Austen, Jane.*). References for which no title was found in the bibliography.

3. Lack of WORK-IN-PROGRESS DOSSIER. This was a must!

4. PLAGIARISM. More about this later....

You will notice that some papers achieved a "theoretical grade" of 5 or 6 or 7, and yet, because of some "reason for rejection" the grade was reduced to 4. Why? I have already explained this. There are a few critical areas in a paper which, if failed, will turn your would-be academic essay into a mere paper, a worthless composition. An essay without a solid Bibliography does not qualify as an academic essay. Let me remind you these reasons for rejection:

P = Plagiarism

R = No / wrong parenthetical References

S = Structure is not that of an academic essay or No Scientific topic or treatment

B = Faulty or missing Bibliography

A = Improper graphic Aspect (illegible...)

D = No dossier (this was a requirement!)

Q = Mere collage of Quotations

L = Poor Language

With the exception of P, a poor performance in any of these compartments (= less than 33% of the maximum score) will lead to a 4 (four).

P, Plagiarism, is a serious offense. If caught, you got the minimum grade. That is, 1 (one).

Now let's see your papers...

BOANCA Georgeta— *AIDS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF A GOOD NUTRITION*

You make it sound as if AIDS were a nutritional disease...

Ugly handwriting.

Terribly bad grammar. Spelling is dysfunctional.

The BIBLIOGRAPHY breaks every rule. I counted 55 errors.

38 errors in the REFERENCES.

BOTOS Simina— *ALL DRESSED IN RED*

BIBLIOGRAPHY... All web sources wrong.

Pauses (blanks) need to be typed after all punctuation signs. Otherwise the reading of your paper is a chore...

The abstract sounds too blurb-y.

Mismatch: APA-style parenthetical references and MLA-style bibliography!

(Il)logical jumps.

BRADEANU Andrada— *STRESS*

The title could've been more focussed.

REFERENCES – titles should be underlined there. Authors' names should not be abbreviated if hyphenated (Luban-Plozza).

- some not found in biblio (Cool, kidshealth).

No Dossier.

CAUNI Ana— *LEFT-HANDED PEOPLE*

Actually your paper is more about lefthandedness, as a phenomenon, than about the people that are left-handed.

Too much of your paper is anecdotal.

I see little evidence of a clearly designed structure.

The ugly pagination (huuuuge margins, and lack of first-line indentation) makes your paper illegible.

Inconsistent use of quotation marks, now American ("..."), now British ('...').

REFERENCES: At least here you are consistent (constant): all your parenthetical references are in the wrong format, containing full web addresses (sometimes 3 lines long!), or full titles...

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Lacks alphabetization. Wrong format for all internet sources. Little variety of sources.

If I weren't a left-handed myself, I'd say that your paper is full of *stângăcii*...

CHIMȘAC Ancuța— *ALCOHOL, A TRAP*

This is more a sermon rather than an academic essay. It is uncritical. It is too long. The information is not scientific.

Lots of titles mentioned in your PARENTHETICAL REFERENCES are missing from your bibliography.

GRAMMAR. The grotesque double-plural of *CHILDRENS* repeats itself 3 or 4 times!

CHIRA Simona— *ANIMAL RIGHTS*

Already an argumentative essay, although not required yet...

Two sentences are plagiarized. You are on my pardon list.

Many consistent errors in the BIBLIOGRAPHY. Too few books there.

COMAN Cristina Anamaria — *HOW ETHIC[AL] IS GENETICS?*

Two errors in the very title: (1) *Ethic* is always a noun, never an adjective. *Ethical* would have been your adjective. (2) *Genetics* is just a harmless science, not a malignant rogue science. What you meant was *genetical engineering*, right?

Good BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Good English, and good command of the scientific jargon.

COSTIN Cristina— *PRO AND AGAINST ABORTION*

Already an argumentative essay, although not required yet...

Well chosen keywords. Fine abstract.

Fluent, well constructed argument.

REFERENCES:

- Mind that Bible quotations use a different system à la (*Genesis 8.12*)
- Some titles are not to be found in your Bibliography. There is no Teodorescu there. Gale is an editor, not an author.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Titles of Romanian periodicals should not be translated into English. Translate eventually only the articles' titles.

CRĂCIUN Dorina—*ABORTION*

Already an argumentative essay, although not required yet...

Massive dossier of materials used.

Some parts of the paper are too subjective, too personal.

The end – with a slogan – seems to occur with a deficit of arguments.

Do not translate Romanian titles when you put them in the parenthetical references!

ERDEI-ARDELEAN Adina— *SPECIAL CREATURES: DOGS*

Such a well laid out, nicely designed and funny paper, spoiled by inappropriate use of RERERENCES!

- there are titles missing from your biblio (*Karen Lange x 4 times, Mândru*)
- Names are inappropriately given in full (*Angus, Philips*)
- page numbers are never given...

And the BIBLIOGRAPHY was quasi-perfect!...

HAJDU Raluca Larisa – *JUST CHOCOLATE...*

GRAMMAR

You forgot about past participles, and about subject-predicate concord rather often...

HAPCA Ileana — *NO TITLE*

Incredibly bad bibliography: No less than 66 errors!

Horrid handwriting.

No proofreading at all.

Ignorance of every rule of grammar.

Abysmal logic: nonsensical sentences.

MEȚAC Anita— *ST ANSELM...*

The end is a bit abrupt and the flow of arguments not very fluid. But otherwise it's OK.

MICLEA Lavinia— *AIDS, A REAL STRUGGLE...*

Your paper scores well in most compartments.

BIBLIOGRAPHY – would have been perfect if it weren't for those "orphan" web sources...

MIKE Magdalena — *THE MAGIC POWER OF SLEEP*

Yes, your illegible handwriting has this magic power: it puts people to sleep... Too long.

You call that a BIBLIOGRAPHY?! consisting of ONE title?

No REFERENCES at all. No Dossier.

NICOARA George Marius— *EDUCATION IN FAMILY*

This would be a well documented paper, and well written actually. But:

Each of your REFERENCES contains the same errors, and penalties add up slowly...
(Title was not underlined, you put an unneeded *pp* before the page..)
All of your web sources in BIBLIO used what I call *the skimpy format*, just a web address with nothing else. Each missing element cost you 0,25 points. 20 x 0,25 = 5 points gone there...

NISTOR Calina — *THE REPUSLIVE EXECUTION OF THE HATEFUL TYRANTS*

The title is sensationalist and dramatic, not appropriate for an academic essay.
Academic titles are sober, objective, and often more descriptive.

REFERENCES: Fairly good format.

Your bibliography should have included a few legal titles, as you discuss a judicial problem.

SPELLING troubles:

- the plural of words ending in Y preceded by a consonant. It is NOT "citys" or "mercenarys" but Y à IES, thus "cities" and "mercenaries".

SPELLING troubles:

- sequence of tenses in the past is unfortunately not observed
- you do not observe the rule of the IF clauses. (Any idea what I'm talking about? If not, ask!)

PETROVAN Romana — *THE PERFECT TEACHER...*

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Many titles lack the Place, Publisher and Year triad.

REFERENCES: Romanian quotations should have had the mention *my translation*.

The references are too few.

Your dossier lacks the materials documenting the work-in-progress...

POP Carmen — *FRIENDSHIP AND THE GROUP OF FRIENDS AT A CRITICAL AGE*

The title sounds redundant. And misleading. You are actually speaking of youth gangs.

Quotations are too massive.

Skimpy BIBLIOGRAPHY. Deficient format. Commas as separators instead of full stops.

REFERENCES:

- Several point to non-existent titles (at least in your biblio).
- You abbreviate words in titles, instead of abbreviating the title. You say *Intr.in.pshi.cop* instead of *Psihologia copilului*. (Word integrity must be preserved).
- You give the author's Christian name, not needed (*Kruetki*, *Lukin*)

No dossier of work-in-progress.

POP Ioana Dalina — *COFFEE EVERYDAY'S BUZZ*

PLAGIARIZED paper

Source 1

<http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/health-and-human-body/human-body/caffeine-buzz.html>

Stolen: It was less than 200 years ago that people first figured out that the buzz they got from coffee and tea was the same buzz, produced by the same chemical agent.

Source 2

<http://www.shapefit.com/caffeine-effects.html>

Stolen: Scientists have developed various theories to explain caffeine's "wake-promoting" power. The consensus today focuses on the drug's interference with adenosine, a chemical in the body that acts as a natural sleeping pill. Caffeine blocks the hypnotic effect of adenosine and keeps us from falling asleep.

Source 3

<http://encyclopedia.jrank.org/Cambridge/entries/080/coffee.html>

Stolen: An evergreen shrub, [*leaves oval, in opposite pairs*]; flowers white, fragrant, 5-petalled, [*in axils of leaves*]; cherry-like fruits, red, fleshy, containing two seeds (the coffee beans) rich in caffeine; [*used worldwide as a beverage*]. Arabian coffee (*Coffea arabica*) is native to Ethiopia, and was introduced first to Arabia, later the E[*ast*] Indies, [*West Indies, South America, and Africa*]. [*During the 16th-c and 17th-c coffee was introduced into one European country after another.*] The major world producer is now Brazil, where in 2004 scientists mapped the plant's genome, anticipating the production of higher quality coffee beans.

POP Liliana — *QUEEN ELIZABETH*

Presentation: every page wrapped individually in foil. It was meant to impress me, but it is actually infuriating!

BIBLIOGRAPHY: You are a champion: you made 79 errors!

REFERENCES: In fake footnote format. It is not what we studied for 14 weeks!

No DOSSIER.

TOMOIAGA Ioana Teodora — *SOME TITLE YOU YOURSELF COULD NOT EXPLAIN*

This is another obvious case of plagiarism. It uses a system of quotation you are not familiar with, a terminology at doctoral level in economy...

ȚINEGHE Alina — *THE COLOUR OF ROSES*

PLAGIARIZED paper

Source 1

<http://www.teleflora.com/roses/flowers-plants/rose-detail.asp>

Copied *ad litteram*: Long a symbol of love and passion, the ancient Greeks and Romans associated roses with Aphrodite and Venus, goddesses of love. Used for hundreds of years to convey messages without words, they also represent confidentiality. In fact, the Latin expression "sub rosa" (literally, "under the rose") means something told in secret, and in ancient Rome, a

wild rose was placed on the door to a room where confidential matters were being discussed.

Each color offers a distinct meaning: red, the lover's rose, signifies enduring passion; white, humility and innocence; yellow, expressing friendship and joy; pink, gratitude, appreciation and admiration; orange, enthusiasm and desire; white lilac and purple roses represent enchantment and love at first sight. The number of stems in a rose bouquet can also express specific sentiments.

The June birth flower and the 15th wedding anniversary flower, roses are also the national flower of the United States and the state flower of Georgia, Iowa, New York, North Dakota and the District of Columbia. And, not surprisingly, June – the month so often associated with weddings – is National Rose Month.

RED

There's nothing secret about the red rose's symbolism of love. Valentine's Day would hardly exist without this bold and dramatic bloom. The ultimate symbol of romantic love and enduring passion, the red rose also conveys respect and the creative spirit of love. Representing true love stronger than thorns, the red rose is known universally as the lover's rose.

WHITE

Representing, humility, purity and innocence, the white rose - often referred to as the bridal rose - is associated with young love...

And it goes on like this for 2 more pages. Everything is exactly as on the website, nothing has been altered, including the illustrations. The fact that the website is mentioned in the Bibliography, does not change anything, since no quotation marks were used, nor did the student acknowledge the source after this lengthy text.

UGLEA Mihai— DRUG CONSUMPTION

Your handwriting is illegible (unreadable).

GRAMMAR. Lack of concord.

drugs IS destroying... stopp drug consumption

REFERENCES: Several references correspond to nothing in the Bibliography (those titles are missing there).

Data in excess: author's first name, full titles, titles instead of articles.

VLAD Marişca— ROSE

An incredible 86 errors in the Bibliography. You missed almost every aspect!

References: wrong format. Full titles, full names, plus years!

Structure: (il)logical jumps from one idea to another.

SPELLING

§ consistent spelling errors: simbol, simbolize (=symbol)