

Name _____, _____ PERIOD

As you see, I have spent a lot of time with your paper. When I first read it, I made comments while reading, and pointed out some quick-fixes. Then, I wrote out my commentary here, including tutorials that will help you improve your paper. I spend this much time with your paper because I expect you to put a lot of energy into making your paper great, from revisions to proofreading. If you have a difficult time understanding my comments, PLEASE COME SEE ME. I will help you to figure it out, and through this process, I believe you will grow as a writer.

I expect to see my recommended revisions in your final. If you have a different idea for how to make your paper better, please come talk to me first. Remember, you will be handing in your entire rough draft packet when you hand in your final, so don't lose it!

What you've done well:

To strengthen your paper:

After making those adjustments, make sure to proofread. It's a good idea to have several strong readers read your paper before you hand it in.

Good Luck!

EXAMPLE! _____ (STUDENT NAME), 2nd Period

Good start. You've done a nice job getting the basic facts of the battle down. Now, we've got to add more information, so that there's more of a story with a purpose here. We're going to make your paper more than just "something that happened," and turn it in to a story with a reason and an impact.

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What you've done well:

You have done a nice job getting the basic facts of the battle down on paper.

To strengthen your paper:

- First, we have to get more information. What kind of a man was William? Who was Harold? Why did the two sides fight? Why did William attack England? If the Anglo-Saxon army was so much bigger, and fighting in their homeland, how were the Normans able to win? How did this victory change the history of England?

- **Organization/Thesis Statement:** Your paper is missing a strong thesis statement. The thesis statement is in your first paragraph, and tells the reader what your paper is about. Strong introductions also tell me why I should want to read your paper.

Try This: **England had been _____ . When William, the Duke of Normandy in France, decided that he should be King of England, he started _____ .**

- **Organization/ Outline problems:** Your paper is in need of a strong outline. An outline is like a roadmap. Decide what your 3 subtopics (themes) are, group ideas together in each subtopic, and put them in the order that makes the most sense. For each new subtopic, start a new paragraph. Subtopics should have 2 or 3 paragraphs. Then, follow the map from one subtopic to the other, but don't go back and forth between them.

I think this is the best order of subtopics in your paper:

- A. William / Harold / A Face-off that would change England
- B. The battle / (This is basically most of what you already have)
- C. Impact – How did William's victory change England

- **Organization / Conclusion:** The last paragraph of your report is a conclusion. A strong conclusion is like an exclamation point for your paper. It's your last chance to convince your reader that your paper is important. If you can answer this question, you'll probably write an acceptable conclusion:

Why is William the Conqueror important?

- **Bibliography:** You're missing a bibliography. You must create the list of sources that you used in your research. A strong bibliography has at least 6 sources listed. In the end, this is 20% of your grade. Not having the bibliography turns your "A" into a "C".

After making those adjustments, make sure to proofread. It's a good idea to have several strong readers read your paper before you hand it in.

Good Luck! -Mr. M.