**Understanding Mr. Havlicek’s Annotations  
*and* words/phrases NOT to use when writing**

**Awk—**Sentence/word is awkward

**Wordy—**condense or reword

**RO—**run-on sentence. You have combined two sentences as one. Oftentimes, these are **comma splices** (you have placed a comma where end punctuation should exist).

**Frag—**sentence fragment. You have not written a complete sentence; this often means you have not included a subject or a verb. Oftentimes, students use subordinate clauses as “sentences”—do not do this.

**WC—**word choice. You have chosen a word that is awkward, inappropriate, etc.

**Vague—**What you have written lacks depth, clarity.

**Unclear/Confusing—**self-explanatory. You need to clarify your claims.

**X through word/letter—**Get rid of it.

**Something is circled—**Something is wrong or missing.

**Misplaced modifier—**You think you are saying one thing, but you are saying another. (i.e. “I saw the television peeking through the window.” That darn television is always peeking through the window.)

**Pronoun/ antecedent agreement/confusion**—Your **pronoun** doesn’t agree with **its** antecedent (what it’s naming/taking the place of). (i.e. **The person** could help if **they—**one person needs the pronoun he/she.)

**Sophistication/Insight—**Find a more intellectual/sophisticated/insightful way of phrasing your claim.

**Watch use/overuse of**:

* **That** (I know *that* they can go—remove if the sentence makes sense without “that.”)
* **This** (Be sure everyone knows to what THIS is referring.)
* **In conclusion/In summary** (overly elementary)
* **Very** (*Very* is far too vague and can have different connotations for different people.)
* **Really** (*Really* is far too vague and can have different connotations for different people.)
* **Truly** (*Truly* is far too vague and can have different connotations for different people.)
* **A lot** (First, don’t write *alot,* because that’s not a word. Also, don’t write *a lot* because it is far too vague and can have different connotations for different people.)
* **Things** (What are these *things* to which you are referring? These *things* need to be far more specific.)
* **Could of** (This phrase doesn’t exist. What most of you MEAN to write is *could’ve* =*could have.*)
* **Contractions** (In academic writing, contractions should be absent [i.e. *don’t=do not*].)
* **Good/Bad** (Whose definition of good and bad are you using? Also, these phrases are rather elementary.)
* **People** (Who are these people? All people? Some people? Me?! Be specific.)