**9R Narrative Essay Editing Checklist**

* **ALWAYS CAPITALIZE THE PERSONAL PRONOUN "I"!!!**
* **ALWAYS CAPITALIZE ALL PROPER NOUNS (names of people, places, and things)!!!**
* Do you have a clear and consistent point of view (1st person or 3rd person)?
* Are you consistent with your verb tense?
  + If the story is being told in the past tense, use past tense verbs.
  + If the story is being told in the present tense, use present tense verbs.
  + To write a narrative and avoid merely writing a description of an event, make sure you are focusing on the elements of a narrative: POV, setting, characterization, **CONFLICT**, climax, resolution.
* Improve organization by developing events in chronological order. Carefully consider if a moment should be developed in its own paragraph or if a series of minor moments should be developed in a single paragraph.
* Show! Don't Tell! Provide specific details to develop auditory, visual, tactile, etc. images (colorful adjectives, vivid verbs, shared diction, and figurative language).​
* If you are using dialogue, each new line of dialogue begins with a new paragraph. See the rule sheet for punctuating dialogue.
* Avoid beginning sentences with a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS: *For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet,* and *So*)
* Consider how you are transitioning between ideas in a sentence.
  + To transition between ideas in a sentence, use the correct conjunction.
    - Coordinating Conjunctions: FANBOYS: *For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So* (When using a coordinating conjunction to join two clauses, put a comma before the coordinating conjunction.)
    - *Subordinating Conjunctions: Although, When, Before, After* (If the first clause begins with a subordinating conjunction, put a period between the clauses.)
* Vary sentence structures (some long, some short sentences).
* Combine some short sentences to increase fluidity if necessary.
* Avoid being repetitive and vary word choices.
* Avoid verbosity (wordiness); you want your sentences to be clear and succinct.
* Avoid the word "very" because it’s lazy: Example, replace "very busy" with "chaotic."
* **READ YOUR WORK ALOUD. LISTEN FOR FLOW.**