Name:

Haflin

Humanities

Date:

Changing Blacklisted Words

This list of words should **never** (or rarely, at least) appear in your academic essays. These words create uncertainty in meaning, wordiness, and an ineffective paper. From this point forward, a **one point penalty per blacklisted word** will be assessed. However, because these words are sometimes necessary, you may use **three (3)** per page at no penalty.

1. Get (got, gotten)
2. Shows/ Shows that
3. So /So that
4. First person pronouns (I, me, my, mine, us, we, ours, our)🡪exception is personal writing
5. You, your🡪exception is personal writing
6. Any form of “to be and “to have”🡪is, am, are, were, was, be, being, been, has, have, has been, had been, have been, become
7. Great, greatly
8. Blatantly
9. A lot
10. Basically
11. Quote (unless used as a verb)
12. First, firstly, second, secondly, etc.
13. Ends up
14. All in all
15. Slang of any kind (wicked, awesome, dude, sweet, ill, etc.)
16. Swears of any kind
17. Totally
18. Like
19. Major
20. “is when”, “is how”, “is who”, “is what”, “is where”, “is why”
21. Thing
22. Make
23. Forms of “Do” (do, did, done)

**Tips for fixing:**

1. Omit the word. “He **is** hoping to find…” changes to “He hopes to find…”
2. Improve your diction. “He is able to” changes to “He can.”
3. Change your syntax from passive voice to active voice by asking yourself who or what exerts the action (verb) in the sentence. Example: “The people **were** forced **to be** segregated from each other.” Word Count: 10/2 BL words. **Ask yourself:** Who are what is DOING the forcing? **Answer:** The government/laws. **New sentence**: “The Jim Crow laws forced segregation between the races.” Word Count; 8/0 BL words.

**Mature writing should be clean, concise, and clear.**