Name:

Haflin

American Studies (3)

Date:

Writing Skills: 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, **each formal (i.e. thesis-based) writing assignment will include two grades: the essay grade and a separate quiz grade based on excessive blacklisted words usage**. However, because these words are sometimes necessary, you may use **three (3)** per page at no penalty. We may add more words to this list as the term progresses.

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

Activity:

1. Using your partner’s most recent essay draft, circle all blacklisted words in the essay OR using your smartphone, use the control+F function to highlight all blacklisted words.
2. Return the paper, and correct sentences in your own essay by using the following organizer:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Original Sentence | Revised Sentence (no BL words) |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Rubric for Blacklisted Words Quiz:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Number of excess Blacklisted Words | Grade |
| 0-5 | A |
| 6-8 | B |
| 9-11 | C |
| 12-15 | D |
| 16+ | F |