




How to Understand Your Instructor's Comments and Corrections
A Key to the Scribbles on Your Paper

What is Written	What It Means
	This is the symbol for paragraph; you should begin a new paragraph at this point in your narrative.
	Lacks a transition between sentences, or between paragraphs. Be sure to introduce the new idea without leaving the reader behind to swim across the river.
✓ OR ✓	This is a very strong and/or interesting point. The more times you see this on your paper, the better.
sw	So what? Means you need to deepen the discussion about the significance of what was presented. It is necessary to do more than discuss the “what”; be sure to discuss the “so what”.
cs OR casual speak	Your tone is too casual for the type of paper written. Be sure to review the assignment expectations. If unsure, assume the tone should be formal.
wc	The word choice you made did “work” in the sentence.
r-o OR run-on	You wrote a sentence that runs on and on and does not easily seem to be clear to the reader so that when the reader reads what you wrote they had to think long and hard about what you meant to say even though you tried to be clear. 😊
rw OR r-w or reword	You will want to revise this sentence or phrase to be clearer for the reader.
Awkward	The phrasing was very hard to follow. Clarify.
Jumps	The phrasing was very hard to follow. The individual sentences were fine but the order in which they were written does not flow.
<u>Journal of Anthropology</u>	Underlining a segment of your paper means that this should have been typed in italics.
TNR 12	APA standard font is Times New Roman, 12 point font.
	You have too large a gap between paragraphs or other type of entry. Check your line spacing within your word processing program.
Changing	Change to lower case
p. # or pp. #	You are required to give the page number(s) if you are quoting (which you only do rarely in a well-written paper).
ss OR single space	Based on standard formatting or the specifics of the assignment you should have single spaced this text.
ds OR double space	Based on standard formatting or the specifics of the assignment you should have double spaced this text.
Margin	You did not set the margin to the standard (1”) or that specified in an assignment.
Cite	You should have provided a reference (also called a citation or source).