**Stop the Insanity!!!!!!**

**Grammar/Usage/Spelling Mistakes that Make Me Crazy**

Spell Check does NOT catch everything! It doesn’t know you didn’t need to use an apostrophe or that you meant a completely different word, even if everything was spelled “correctly.”

Example: Spell Check is no going to cat any of this stupid mistakes I just mad.

Apostrophes are for possessives or contractions, NOT plurals!

Example: The girl’s books are ruined, NOT The girl’s book’s are ruined!!!!

It’s = it is

Its = possessive

Example: It’s not acceptable for a society to permit its language to be abused by giving in to lazy grammar study.

There = location

Their = possessive

They’re = they are

Example: They’re going there to pick up their lottery tickets.

You’re = you are

Your = possessive

Example: You’re not giving me a very good impression of your education with all this bad grammar.

Weather = climate

Whether = either/or

Example: The weather today will determine whether or not we go to the park.

Lose = misplace

Loose = not tight

Example: The knot on that bag is too loose, so you might lose the contents.

Everyday = common

Every day = each day

Example: Every day in spring, I put on my everyday clothes and putter in the garden.

A lot = much

Alot = NOT A WORD

Then = time, sequence

Than = a comparison

Example: Then he told her that his mom was prettier than hers. That did not go well.

Effect = noun

Affect = verb

Example: Of course, his story has an emotional effect on me, but I’m not going to let it affect my work.

Through = a preposition

Threw = past tense of throw, a verb

Example: He was in trouble when he threw the rock through his neighbor’s window.

Apart = not together

A part = a segment of something, a theatrical role

Example: She didn’t mind that they had to be apart while he went to school as long as she felt she was still a part of his life and heart.

Like = to enjoy, approve of

Like = comparison

Like is NOT an appropriate interjection

Example: I do not like it when my daughter makes herself sound like an airhead through the frequent, random, and useless interjection of “like” into her vocabulary. I hate to hear a girl say, “I wasn’t, like, gonna go, like, crazy or anything. I just, like, want to talk, if, like, I can.”

**An essay is not texting/emailing/IMing, so please note the following:**

4 does NOT = for

Example: The bird is crazy 4 cocoa puffs. NEVER OK!

U does NOT = you, and ur does NOT = your

Example: I admire u for ur looks. NEVER OK!

2 does NOT = to

Example: Can I send flowers 2 your sister? NEVER OK!

**Commonly misspelled words:**

Separate, NOT seperate

Definitely, NOT definately

**Words I DON’T want to see in your writing:**

Thing

Stuff

A lot

Very

Definitely

ANY contraction whatsoever, like don’t, can’t, isn’t, it’s, shouldn’t, etc.

 (Why? Contractions are lazy writing and they detract from the formality an essay requires)