**Tips for Good Writing**

Topic

* Make sure your topic sentence is clear and the position you take is strong.

Organization

* Make sure you have a topic sentence at the beginning of your paragraph
* Make sure your examples and supporting details are in the middle and that they connect to your topic sentence
* Make sure you use effective transitions that connect your ideas

Thinking & Elaboration

* Make sure you have strong ideas/reasons/examples to support your thesis/topic
* Make sure you include explicit details and evidence to support your ideas/reasons/examples
* Make sure you include original thoughts (your own thinking)

Language/Vocabulary

* Make sure you creatively use active verbs and descriptive language in your writing
* Make sure you have variety in the length and structure of your sentences

Spelling & Grammar

* Make sure you proofread, edit, and revise your writing and/or have someone (friend, sibling, parent, etc.) assist you with that
* Make sure your final draft contains very few or no misspellings
* Make sure your final draft contains very few or no grammatical errors