The Absolute List of NO-Nos or Must-Dos from our Grendel Essay:

**MLA** – Do not mention the author’s name in the parenthesis after a quotation if he has been mentioned in the introduction paragraph. We know who you are talking about, the repetition is redundant.

**Verbs**\_ Avoid all other tenses apart from the present.

**Repetition** \_ Avoid repetition of all kinds: word; phrase; sentence

**Punctuation** \_ A name of a character in a novel is a proper noun even if it sounds like a common noun, i.e. ‘The Dragon’, and it needs a capital letter.

**Indefinite/Definite Article** \_ Do not use the definite article in front of a noun if it is the first time mentioned.

Example: I was walking in a dark wood and **a** lion sneaked up on me to devour me alive.

BUT LATER… **The** lion was strong and tawny, and frightened everyone but the mouse.

**Listing**\_ Avoid making lists and using that kind of language:

Example: Firstly, secondly, and next