

Warning signs of a rushed paper

This checklist notes some characteristics of writing done in one draft and at the last minute. Watch for these symptoms of hurried writing; your professor will certainly notice them!

- Failure to follow the assignment as specified.
- Glaring factual errors due to lack of sufficient proofreading.
- Failure to cite sources properly.
- Incomplete thesis.
- Main idea of the paper stated in the concluding, but not introductory paragraph.
- Thesis not supported throughout the paper.
- Poor language choice, paragraphing, and sentence structure at the end of the paper.
- Incomplete argument.
- Use of passive voice (is/are verbs) as opposed to strong action verbs.
- Lack of tense agreement (present/past/future)
- Lack of subject/verb agreement.
- Spelling and basic grammatical errors.
- Sloppy presentation.

The information in this handout is paraphrased from the following site: [Richmond Writing Center](#).