Nancy Chick's Grading Codes

The following are the codes, abbreviations, and symbols I use while grading. In parentheses, you'll find the appropriate **chapter**—not page—numbers for your *Bedford Handbook* (*BH*) or Graff and Birkenstein (*GB*). Look up each item marked on your essay, so you understand what to work on before you write your next one.

Content

✓ good point; key concept or term addressed effectively

ex? concrete example or illustration needed

TS a "they say" move (GB 1)

IS an "I say" move (GB 4)

Organization

¶ paragraph

✗ problem with structure/organization; see "stick figure" ('Suitable Design' for Composition") handout

Coh? essay lacks cohesiveness (thesis and topic sentences aren't clearly related; topic sentences—

and their paragraphs—should build on thesis and on each other)

¶ unity paragraph lacks unity (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/gl_pgrph2.html)

Sentence Fluency

awk awkward, tangled, or confusing syntax (could be due to several problems, so read your entire sentence aloud to the confusion in the sentence) (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/600/01/)

drqt dropped quote (quote not integrated into your own writing or using "'quotation sandwich'"; GB 3)

T transition needed for coherence; gap between sentences/ideas (owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/gl_pgrph2.html and owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/574/01/)

//ism faulty parallelism (items in a series that aren't written in parallel form and thus create confusion; *BH* 9)

Diction

inf informal; should be more formal for college writing (*BH* 17d-e)

WC word choice (wrong word, diction; *BH* 18)

w wordy; should be concise; omit unnecessary words & phrases (*BH* 8, 16, http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/572/01/)

Mechanics

BH *Bedford Handbook*

ⓒ comma error ("Quick Guide to Commas" handout)

ⓒIE with introductory element

ⓒ2IC with two independent clauses

ⓒNRC with nonrestrictive clauses

ⓒS with series

ⓒQ with quote

CS comma splice (*BH* 20)

pa agr/sv agr agreement error (pronoun-antecedent *BH* 22; subject-verb *BH* 21)

FR frag fragment (*BH* 19)

FS fused sentence (*BH* 20)

AP apostrophe error (*BH* 36)

" quotation mark error (*BH* 37)

PR proofread; careless error (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/561/01/)

sp spelling error

/ use lower case with the letter X for instance, A̸ (*BH* 45)

= use upper case with the letter X for instance, a̲ (*BH* 45)

? use question marks for questions (*BH* 38b)

punct titles punctuate titles (or correctly) (*BH* 37d, 42a)

cite cite sources (or correctly) (*BH* 53)