**Checklist for ACT Writing Test**

**Content**

1. Do you choose a position?
2. Do you use specific reasons to support your position?
3. Does your argument include 2-3 points or pieces of specific evidence (e.g., numbers, dates, other information related to your topic) to support your argument?
4. Do you include an example(s) for each point?
5. Do you briefly share the opposing position without arguing it too strongly?
6. Do you explain your position clearly, so your reader understands how you arrived at this conclusion?
7. Do you avoid contradicting yourself?

**Organization**

1. Do you include a title for your response that slants toward your thesis?
2. Do you include a thesis statement that presents a clear and strong opinion, claim or argument that can be debated?
3. Do you include an introductory paragraph that is related to your topic?
4. Does your introductory paragraph avoid giving away the details of your argument?
5. Do you write a paragraph for each point of your argument?
6. Do the topic sentences for each paragraph clearly relate to your thesis?
7. Do your body paragraphs appear in the same order that you promised them in your thesis statement?
8. Do your body paragraphs prove or explain the topic sentence?
9. Do you avoid using isolated or “orphan” quotations (i.e., sentences that do not contain some of your own writing)?
10. Do you use transitions to show level of importance, chronological order, or some other way to get from other point to another?

**Style**

1. Is your writing clear?
2. Do you choose each word carefully?
3. Can any of your words be misunderstood?
4. Does your writing sound smooth with read aloud?
5. Do you include unnecessary words or descriptors?
6. Do you use a variety of different sentence structures to show more sophisticated writing (e.g., simple sentence, 2 sentences joined as 1, sentence with a phrase before or after)?
7. Do you avoid clichés?
8. Do you avoid overusing “be” verbs (state-of-being) verbs and helpers
9. Do you use vivid action verbs in active voice?
10. Do you avoid using “there is” and “there are” sentences?

**Mechanics**

1. Do you avoid sentence fragments?
2. Do you avoid comma splices?
3. Do you avoid run-on or fused sentences?
4. Do all subjects and verbs agree?
5. Do all pronouns and their antecedents agree?
6. Is it clear to what each pronoun refers?
7. Are all words spelled correctly?
8. Do you maintain verb tense consistency (e.g., present tense, past tense, future tense)?
9. Do you avoid use of second person (e.g., you, your)?
10. Do you use parallelism?
11. Do you use a comma after a long introductory phrase (i.e., 5 words or longer)?
12. Do you use a comma after an introductory dependent clause?
13. Do you use an apostrophe to show possession?
14. Do you correctly use plurals and possessives?
15. Do you avoid using contractions?
16. Do you capitalize important words in titles?
17. Do you capitalize all names and proper nouns?
18. Do you underline the titles of books, plays, and long poems?
19. Do you avoid underlining the title of your essay and enclosing it in quotation marks?
20. Do you avoid repetition?
21. Do you use multiple commas with items in a series?
22. Is your handwriting legible?