

## ***Paper Comment Abbreviations***

Included here is a list of abbreviations I use in commenting on papers. This not only saves me time in noting various sorts of mechanical errors, but also frees up space for me to comment on more positive and content-related matters. Some errors may simply be circled as well.

### ***Abbreviation    What it means***

AGR	Lack of agreement in number, gender, or tense
AMB	Ambiguous word or expression
AWK	Awkward word, phrase, sentence, or passage—put things more clearly.
CIT	Lack of citation where needed, an improperly formatted citation, or an improperly formatted entry on a works cited page
CN	Inappropriate contraction or abbreviation
FRAG	Sentence fragment
HQ	“Hanging” quotation—a quotation occurs on its own in a passage, with no transitional or introductory expressions accompanying it.
INF	Split infinitive
LT	Improper use of logical terminology (e.g., ‘valid’, ‘sound’, ‘true’, and ‘false’)
ME	Be more explicit. More detail is needed to make the point clear.
MD	More discussion would be helpful.
¶	Start a new paragraph here.
RF	The referent of this term or phrase is ambiguous.
RO	Run-on sentence
RP	Repetitious word or point
RQ	Rhetorical question—make the claim you intend to make in the form of a declarative sentence instead.
SP	Spelling or typographical error
TC	Too colloquial—choose a more formal expression.
TL	A sentence that is too long—break it up into shorter sentences.
TRANS	A better transition is needed here.
U/M	A use/mention error—when talking <i>about</i> a word or phrase, enclose it in single quotation marks; when <i>using</i> a word or phrase, don’t enclose it in quotation marks.
WW	The wrong word or phrase is being used—either a technical term is being used incorrectly or you seem to have chosen the wrong word or phrase to express what is intended.
?	The meaning of this word, phrase, or passage is unclear or nonsensical.
??	The meaning of this word, phrase, or passage is <i>extremely</i> unclear or nonsensical.

### **More general comments**

INT	The introduction of the paper needs improvement. See the paper guidelines for suggestions.
G/M	The grammar and mechanics of the indicated passage is in need of serious improvement.
N/A	The passage does not address the overall question at hand.
CONCL	The conclusion needs improvement—either a proper conclusion is missing altogether, the paragraph doesn’t sum up the paper’s results effectively, or undefended new claims are being made.