THE WRITE STUFF

Compiled by Robert Bell, and other members of the department

- ➤ Avoid run-on sentences they are hard to read.
- > Don't use no double negatives.
- ➤ Use the semicolon properly, always use it where it is appropriate; and never where it isn't.
- Reserve the apostrophe for it's proper use and omit it when its not needed.
- > Do not put sentences in the negative form.
- ➤ Verb has to agree with their subjects.
- ➤ No sentence fragments.
- ➤ Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.
- Avoid commas, that are not necessary.
- ➤ If you reread your work, you will find on rereading that a great of repetition can be avoided by rereading and editing.
- A writer must not shift your point of view.
- Eschew dialect, irregardless.
- And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
- ➤ Don't overuse exclamations marks!!!
- ➤ Place pronouns as close as possible, especially in long sentences, as of 10 or more words, to their antecedents.
- ➤ Hyphenate between syllables and avoid un-necessary hyphens.
- > Write all adverbial forms correct.
- ➤ Don't use contractions in formal writing.
- Writing carefully, dangling participles must be avoided.
- ➤ It is incumbent on us to avoid archaisms.
- ➤ If any word is improper at the end of a sentence, a linking verb is.
- > Steer clear of incorrect forms that have snuck in the language.
- Take the bull by the hand and avoid mixed metaphors.
- ➤ Avoid trendy locutions that sound flaky.
- ➤ Never, ever use repetitious redundancies.
- ➤ Everyone should be careful to use a singular pronoun with singular nouns in their writing.
- ➤ If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times, resist hyperbole.
- ➤ Also, avoid awkward or affected alliteration.
- ➤ Don't string too many prepositional phrases together unless you are walking through the valley of the shadow of death.
- ➤ Always pick on the correct idiom.

- ➤ "Avoid overuse of 'quotation "marks.""
- > The adverb always follows the verb.
- Last but not least, avoid clichés like the plague; seek viable alternatives.