Penultimate Edit

Task 1: Thesis Check

What is your thesis? Highlight or underline the part of your essay where you explain the thesis. (You may highlight any parts of the introduction that explain the thesis if you have taken more than one sentence to explain the thesis.)

Does each part of the essay support the thesis? Go through the essay section by section, and explain how it supports the thesis. Highlight or underline the places in the section where you make an explicit connection to the thesis. Each section should have at least one place where the connection to the thesis is made explicit. If it isn't there, you need to write it!

If you can find no explicit places that make a connection to the thesis, ask yourselves: does this belong in our essay? If the answer is "yes," ask yourselves, how you can make the connection between this section and the thesis explicit. If the answer is no, ask yourselves what should be there in its place.

Task 2: Editing procedure

We recommend that each member of the team take a turn at editing your paper. To prevent yourselves from boomerang changes, we recommend that each member take one pass at the text, and that you determine the order that you do it in, assigning each person a time-range to do the editing in. Decide who your best writer is and assign that person the last pass. You may find it easier to edit effectively if you read the text aloud (embarrassing, I know, but effective. It is even *more* effective to read it to someone else, which is even more embarrassing).

Each team member should be checking for the following things:

1. Are all the page citations that are needed in place? Add any that are not there.
2. Does each paragraph hang together? Does it have a topic sentence and is it all about one thing?
3. Are all the transitions between paragraphs there? Do they clearly show how the paper hangs together?
4. Do all the parts of the essay support the thesis? Is it made clear and explicit in the paper how they support the thesis?
5. Are there grammatical errors or spelling errors? (Watch particularly for comma splices, the bane of many student writers.) Are the sentences all clear?

The last editor may remove the materials that you will not be using in your paper from the page. If you need to see something that has been removed after the last edit, you can view any previous version of the page by clicking on the link "history" above your page. Don't accidentally revert your page to an earlier version, however! Just click on "v. 37" (for example) to see that version.

On this side of the page, give us your editing order or, if you wish to handle editing in another way, explain how you intend to do it. You will have about twenty minutes on Thursday, if you need it, to do one last quick run-through.