**English Name:**

**Mr. Fisher**

**Writing Errors That Upset Mr. Fisher**

*As you may have already figured out, Mr. Fisher is an emotional fellow. He’s even been known to cry at sad movies (though only when peeling an onion…yeah, he peels onions at the movies. You have a problem with that?)! Sometimes, you will receive corrected essays that are stained with the tears of a sad teacher. Please don’t make Mr. Fisher cry! Instead, read this sheet carefully and save it. Then, never forget it! If your house should catch on fire, you should save this sheet first, then save your hamster. If you don’t have a hamster, then be thankful you’ll never have to make that choice.*

1. “A lot” is two words. There is no such word as “alot.”
2. All book titles should be underlined or in italics. All titles of poems, songs, and short stories should be in quotations. Play titles can be underlined, in italics, or in quotations.
3. Beware of absolutes. These are words that do not allow for exceptions. They include (but are not limited to) always, never, everyone, everything, all, and none.
4. “Dogs get mad, people get angry.” –Ms. Heater, my sixth grade teacher. When a human is mad, he or she is crazy, not angry.
5. When one asks a question, one wants an answer. Since your readers cannot answer you when reading your paper, don’t ask them questions.
6. Be sure to include a correct parenthetical citation with every quotation you use.
7. In a thesis-driven essay, do not refer to yourself (for example: I, me, mine, my).
8. When one writes an essay, he or she is writing to the piece of paper. Hence, there is no “you.”
9. Stay away from words that annoy me: kids, stuff, things, kind of, sort of, cool, and folks.
10. If you type your essay, there should be no spelling errors that a spell check should catch.
11. If you copy a quotation, make sure you copy it correctly. The same goes for names from a book we read.
12. Stay away from lazy punctuation: ---, …
13. Do not type in all capital letters or in bold face. Trust the power of your own words. Also, do not use italics for emphasis either.
14. Know the difference between its (possessive) and it’s (contraction for it is).
15. Know the difference between there (location), their (possession), and they’re (they are).
16. Know the difference between two (2), to (preposition), and too (also).
17. Never, ever, ever, ever use the phrases “This quote” or “This quotation.”
18. When referring to the author of a book, first use his or her full name (Charles Dickens). Then, refer to him or her by his or her last name (Dickens). Do not refer to the author by his or her first name (Charles).
19. Do not use the word “etc.” It’s lazy and vague.
20. Stay away from the meaningless phrase, “In life.”
21. Starting an essay with the phrase “In the book…” is something you should have left behind in Middle School.
22. Know the difference between “lose” and “loose.”
23. Do not "text" in an essay. Therefore, do not use "u," "LOL," "&" and other texting shortcuts.