

# “Grammar’s Magnificent 7”

-Mr. Kerr

1. 95% of all History papers/paragraphs/essays for your entire life will almost always be in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person, formal, expository style.
2. Do not address the reader, i.e. “In conclusion”, “As I wrote above”, “To summarize...”
3. It’s = It is: its = possessive(belonging to it)
4. Indefinite pronouns = it, he, she, they, their, theirs, his, hers, them, him, her, its... only use them if they are right after the name or noun to which they are referring. No more than one sentence away. When in doubt, write it out!
5. Agreement: verbs and nouns need to match the plural and singular conjugation, i.e. “they is...” . If you are not sure, try reading the sentence aloud, to pick up the match.
6. Subjunctive tense or “helping verbs”: have, should, could, would ... make weak sentences and statements. Try to write in the active tense.
7. Never ever, ever use “things” or “stuff”. It tells your reader that you do not know what you are talking about. Develop a list of categorical synonyms in order to replace ‘things’, i.e. concepts, aspects, reasons, topics, ideas, categories, areas, rationales....