

Abbreviations help in grading writing

In the credit where credit is due department, I borrowed this technique from a colleague, Dr. Denny Wilkins:

I have a list of 39 abbreviations for common writing errors (DP for dangling participle, CS for comma splice, etc.) that I give to my students. When I grade their papers, I simply jot the appropriate abbreviation(s) at the end of the line where the mistake occurs. When the students do their rewrites, they have to know what a comma splice is before they can find it and fix it. Instructors can customize their lists for individual courses and even change the lists during the semester as certain problems pop up or as other ones don't surface.

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