**Essay Writing Checklist**

**Organization**

☐ I have a thesis that is a clear, complex sentence in my introduction.

*Complex Sentence = Independent Clause + Dependent Clause(s)*

☐ I have strong topic sentences that support the thesis.

☐ I have a conclusion that restates my thesis in new terms.

**Body Paragraphs**

☐ I have a clear topic sentence.

☐ I have two to three sets of CERs supporting the topic sentence.

*CER = Claim + Evidence + Rationale*

☐ I have transitions that show the relationship between ideas.

☐ I have a conclusion that relates back to my thesis statement.

**Sentences**

☐ I have used a variety of sentences (simple, complex, compound).

☐ I have used precise words (do not use vague words, such as “a lot”, “kind of”, “things”).

☐ I have used correct punctuation and grammar.

☐ I have cited sources correctly.

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Examples of Subordinating Conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions show the relationship between the two parts of a complex sentence.

- after
- although
- as
- as a result of
- as if
- as long as
- as much as
- as though
- because
- before
- even
- even if
- even though
- if
- in order that
- just as
- now
- now since
- now that
- now when
- once
- provided that
- rather than
- rather than
- rather than
- since
- since
- so that
- so that
- so that
- since
- since
- so that
- so that
- so that
- that
- that
- than
- than
- than
- though
- though
- unless
- until
- when
- when
- where
- where
- whereas
- whereas
- whether
- whether
- which
- which
- while
- while
- who
- who
- whose

Examples of Simple, Compound, and Complex Sentences

- **Simple:**
  I walked to the store.

- **Compound:**
  It was a beautiful day, so I walked to the store.

- **Complex:**
  Because it was a beautiful day, I walked to the store.