Outline of General Writing Challenges Observed

I. Grammar, syntax & punctuation
   a. Grammar
      i. Vocabulary (vocabulary is not expansive enough)
      ii. Incorrect/improper word-tense usage
      iii. Use of colloquial speech in college-level assignments
   b. Syntax
      i. Sentence structure (subject/predicate & transitions)
         1. Students whose first & primary language is Samoan tend to write English sentences in the same way a Samoan sentence is written.
         2. Transitional & comparative words (however, nevertheless are the commonly misused)
         3. Run on sentences & sentence fragments
      ii. Articles, modifiers
         1. The use of the articles/modifiers a and an before nouns is often incorrect
      iii. Punctuation
         1. Misuse of or omitting commas, semi-colons, colons

II. Research
   a. Topics (narrowing/expanding, developing)
   b. Proper citation formats (for internet sources, journals, books, etc.)
   c. Gathering, deciphering/interpreting information
   d. Research writing organization
   e. Presenting information in a comprehensible and appropriate manner with thesis statement, analysis/conclusion.

III. Essay writing
   a. The rules of a basic essay
      i. Paragraph rules/basics
ii. Thesis statements

iii. Composition of a basic 5-paragraph essay

b. Types of essays (Expository, Descriptive, Comparative, Argumentative)

IV. Proof reading/editing & revising

a. “Rushed” writing habits, with no effort to proof-read and edit

b. No revisions done, unless specified as part of assignment/grading