**Common Mistakes**

* One big paragraph: You should have a minimum of three paragraphs, including an introduction and conclusion.
* Refer to yourself or the reader: Never use “I”, “we”, “us”, “you”.
* Use vague words like: things, good, bad
* Make assumptions. Always have specific evidence or examples to back your main points (ex. No one liked Rockefeller).
* Not specifically referencing the document(s). You must refer to the document by the name of the excerpt, the author, or simply calling it ‘document #1’.
* Not expanding on document analysis. You need to explain specifically how the document supports your point.
* Unclear/ non- existent thesis. Your thesis should be clear and concise. If the essay is persuasive, you should include position in the thesis.
* Not answering all parts of the prompt. Be sure to thoroughly read the essay prompt.
* Use unsophisticated language. Be aware of your word choice (ex. Instead of ‘to get rid of’, use ‘eliminate).
* Be vague. Make sure you explain thoroughly. Don’t assume I know what YOU know.