**Color Code Revision**

Color Coding is a method that helps you visually see the way you’ve written your piece. Follow the directions to color code your piece and see it the way your audience does!

**CODING:**

Step 1: Place brackets around the FIRST WORD of EVERY sentence.

Step 2: Highlight EVERY SENTENCE with 2 alternating colors (ex. Blue, pink, blue, pink).

Step 3: Circle every “TO BE” verb (ex. Is, am, was, were, be, being, been, wasn’t, isn’t).

Step 4: Cross out every OVERUSED, STINKY word: very, a lot, this, that, really, is, next, then.

Step 5: Place a triangle around ITS, IT’S, YOUR, YOU’RE, THERE, THEIR, THEY’RE.

Step 6: Put a box around all TRANSITION WORDS.

**DECODING:**

Step 7: Write each of the FIRST WORDS in a list on a separate sheet of paper. You are only allowed to use the same 1st word TWICE within your piece. You MUST use another word if you’ve used the same one more than twice. FIX THIS IN YOUR PAPER (this may require you to rearrange/re-work some sentences instead of just changing that word).

Step 8: Examine your sentences. If you see a colored line that extends for an unusually long distance, you probably have a run-on sentence. FIX THIS. If you see all lines of roughly the same length, you need to ADD SENTENCE VARIETY by combining some short sentences or breaking up some long ones so you have a nice pattern of long and short sentences.

Step 9: Examine the circled “to be” verbs. Re-read/re-write the sentence and use a livelier verb if possible.

Step 10: Examine every “X” out word. Find a more elaborate word for those stinky words and FIX THIS IN YOUR PAPER

Step 11: Examine all of your triangles. Re-read the sentence to make sure that you are using the PROPER FORM of the word you mean. Review this if necessary.

Step 12: List all of your transition words on another sheet of paper. Ensure you have NOT REPEATED any transition. Use your list to add a variety of transitions. If you have none, ADD AT LEAST 3 TRANSITIONS.

If you finish fixing these things, have a peer revise your paper one last time and make those final corrections.