Hot Spots!

Keep track of your grammatical, spelling, and writing hot spots! These are errors that you tend to make over and over again. All writers do this, but it is successful writers who take charge of the errors!

**Paragraphs:** Does each begin with a topic sentence and focus on one main idea (all sentences and sentence parts develop the topic sentence and the essay’s thesis); do the sentences flow into one another; are the ideas clear and hold together?

**Sentences:** Incomplete, choppy, or run-together sentences?

**Verbs:** Subject-verb agreement, correct tense formation and use (especially the past tense), consistent use of a particular tense.

**Pronouns:** Do pronouns and their antecedents (nouns to which they refer) agree? Are subject and object pronouns used where they are supposed to be (as subjects and objects!)? Are you properly using possessive pronouns (ours, his, hers, its, and theirs do not need apostrophes)?
Grammar and Mechanics: Proper use of punctuation—periods, commas, semi-colons, apostrophes; no contractions, capitalization, numbers.

Articles: Proper Use!

Spelling: Homonyms and general spelling, proper formation of plurals.

ESOL errors:

Anything else?