**Media Placement Exam**

Here are a variety of sources you can consult if you’d like to brush up your media skills before the placement exam.

[**The IDS Stylebook**](https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1766891/files/90534532/download?wrap=1) has a great usage section in the back, containing common misspellings and misused words. It also has lots of handy entries for IU-specific references, such as Herman B Wells and Peoples Park. You need not know all the ways the IDS stylebook differs from the AP Stylebook, and you are responsible for AP Style, not IDS Style, but this reference can save you from many deadly factual errors because it contains so many proper names of local places and figures. A pdf is available [here](https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1766891/files/90534532/download?wrap=1).

[**Grammar Girl**](http://www.quickanddirtytips.com/grammar-girl) is a friendly, engaging grammar helper, the antithesis of the elderly, prune-faced grammar cop. Her site contains quick-and-dirty tips on all of the most common grammar issues, and an extensive archive. She should be able to help you with most of your issues, for free. You can also follow her on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/GrammarGirl) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GrammarGirl).

Grammar Girl on commas:

[**Common Errors in English Usage**](https://brians.wsu.edu/common-errors-in-english-usage/) is a site run by Paul Brians. Is "buttload" one word or two? Find out on his handy [list of common errors](http://public.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html).

[**J200 AP BASICS.docx**](https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1766891/files/90534545/download?wrap=1)****just a simple handout of the most basic AP style rules

[**Dow Jones Copy Editing Internships and Tests**](http://www.editteach.org/specialprojects?id=8%C2%A0(Links%20to%20an%20external%20site.))

**Awesome advice on clarity:**[www.withoutbullshit.com](http://www.withoutbullshit.com)

      Including fantastic advice about [weasel words](http://withoutbullshit.com/blog/how-to-fix-weasel-words/)

[**Latino vs. Hispanic**](http://www.vox.com/2015/8/19/9173457/hispanic-latino-comic)**,** in one cartoon. Thanks, Vox.

[**The New Yorker's Comma Queen**](http://video.newyorker.com/series/comma-queen) video series. Here's a sample, on who/whom:

[**Cute TedEd lesson**](http://ed.ted.com/lessons/comma-story-terisa-folaron) **on commas**

[**Self-editing tips**](http://ajr.org/2015/03/04/7-self-editing-tips-reporters-without-copy-editors/)

[**Writing Tools: 50 Essential Strategies for Every Writer**](https://www.amazon.com/Writing-Tools-Essential-Strategies-Writer/dp/0316014990/ref%3Dmt_paperback?_encoding=UTF8&me=) is a cheap, handy and engaging little book that no writer should be without.

[**The Elements of Style**](https://www.amazon.com/Elements-Style-William-Strunk-Jr/dp/1557427283/ref%3Dtmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=) by William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White can be had for less than $4. This book, written in 1918, is one of the classic reference books for writers. Memorize Rule 17:

*Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all his sentences short, or that he avoid all detail and treat his subjects only in outline, but that every word tell.*