Nancy Chick's Grading Codes

The following are the codes, abbreviations, and symbols I use while grading. In parentheses, you'll find the appropriate chapter—not page—numbers for your Bedford Handbook (BH) or Graff and Birkenstein (GB). Look up each item marked on your essay, so you understand what to work on before you write your next one.

**Content**

- ✓ good point; key concept or term addressed effectively
- ❓ concrete example or illustration needed
- TS a "they say" move (GB 1)
- IS an "I say" move (GB 4)

**Organization**

- ⚹ paragraph
- X problem with structure/organization; see "stick figure" ("Suitable Design' for Composition") handout
- X essay lacks cohesiveness (thesis and topic sentences aren't clearly related; topic sentences—
  and their paragraphs—should build on thesis and on each other)
- ⚹ paragraph lacks unity (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/gl_pgrph2.html)

**Sentence Fluency**

- ❔ awkward, tangled, or confusing syntax (could be due to several problems, so read your entire sentence aloud to the confusion in the sentence) (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/600/01/)
- X dropped quote (quote not integrated into your own writing or using "quotation sandwich"; GB 3)
- O transition needed for coherence; gap between sentences/ideas (owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/gl_pgrph2.html and owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/574/01/)
- O faulty parallelism (items in a series that aren't written in parallel form and thus create confusion; BH 9)
- O wordy; should be concise; omit unnecessary words & phrases (BH 8, 16, http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/572/01/)

**Diction**

- inF informal; should be more formal for college writing (BH 17d-e)
- wC word choice (wrong word, diction; BH 18)
- O fused sentence (BH 20)
- APS apostrophe error (BH 36)
- O quotation mark error (BH 37)
- O proofread; careless error (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/561/01/)
- O spelling error
- O use lower case with the letter X for instance, / (BH 45)
- O use upper case with the letter X for instance, = (BH 45)
- O use question marks for questions (BH 38b)
- O punctuate titles (or correctly) (BH 37d, 42a)
- O cite sources (or correctly) (BH 53)

**Mechanics**

- BH Bedford Handbook
- C comma error ("Quick Guide to Commas" handout)
- C1E with introductory element
- C2IC with two independent clauses
- C0NC with nonrestrictive clauses
- CS with series
- CQ with quote
- CS comma splice (BH 20)
- A agreement error (pronoun-antecedent BH 22; subject-verb BH 21)
- FR fragment (BH 19)
- C cite sources (or correctly) (BH 53)