Slang Expressions and Colloquial Language

Refer to LB Brief handbook, page 165 (5th ed.) for slang expressions and colloquial language.

**Slang** is the use of informal words and expressions that are not considered standard in the speaker's dialect or language.

**Slang** is also the misuse of words and phrases that are incorrect or illogical when taken in the literal sense: *I floated on cloud nine, higher than a kite.*

**Examples:**

- If you make another **boo-boo** like that, you won't have a job.
- Do you have a **buck** I can borrow?
- I promised to bring two bottles of **booze** to the party.

A **colloquialism**, sometimes referred to collectively as "colloquial language," is a phrase that is common in everyday, unconstrained conversation, rather than in formal speech or academic writing.

Dictionaries often display colloquial words and phrases with the abbreviation *colloq.* as an identifier.

Some examples of informal colloquialisms can include words (such as “y'all” or “gonna” or “wanna”), phrases (such as “old as the hills” and “graveyard dead”), or sometimes even an entire aphorism (“There's more than one way to skin a cat” and “He needs to step up to the plate.”).

You must write for **clarity** even while writing narrative essays so that all readers will know what you mean. Therefore, do not use slang or colloquialisms.