So, you’ve written your paper and you’re feeling pretty good about it. Maybe, you even think you’re done with your paper. But think again! The fun has just begun, because it is time to edit.

**Step 1:** Print out your assignment and read it out loud. This might sound simple, but reading the paper aloud goes a long way in bringing attention to awkward wording and other issues. Later, having a marked copy will better demonstrate your paper’s growth.

**Issues to Look Out For When Revising:**
1. Improper or Repetitive Sentence Structure
2. Misuse of Commas
3. Vague/Unclear thoughts and ideas

**If you come across these issues while revising, don’t worry!**
Techniques for Improvement

1. Vary Sentence Beginnings
Sentences that all begin the same make for boring essays!
Think about adding prepositions to spice up your syntax.

2. Take a Sample of your writing
Using one of your paragraphs, take a count of how many
words in each sentence. If all the sentences are similar in
length, consider creating a few shorter or longer sentences
throughout your essay.

3. Repair Common Comma Issues
Don’t litter your paper with comma splices! A comma cannot
join two independent clauses without a conjunction like an
and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet.

4. Think Like an Outsider
Try reading your article with the perspective of an outsider.
Doing so will shed light on confusing/unclear thoughts and
arguments. If you cannot answer the question, “What am I
arguing?” then your paper is not clear enough.
5. Lifeline: Call a Friend

At its core, writing is a truly collaborative art form. The best set of eyes to look over a paper is a second set. If possible, have an unbiased friend or WITT look over your paper.