

Special Topic: Editing/ Revising

***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 it's 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.