

Birthday Paper Self-Edit of Intro & Conclusion

Intro, Conclusion & Self Edit complete for Thursday.

Do self-edit BY HAND on a draft to turn in, NOT on computer.

Complete this exercise utilizing a **HARD COPY** of your completed typed rough draft of intro & conclusion.

1. Read your whole intro & whole conclusion through **OUT LOUD** without stopping. Does it make sense? Does it have a clear beginning and end? If not, try to improve it!

2. Now **UNDERLINE** the following words wherever you see them in your essay.

A lot	stuff	great	really	etc.	very	cool
nice	neat	good	sort of	things	kind of	big

***NOW GET RID OF THESE OVERUSED, NON-SPECIFIC WORDS!**

3. With a **highlighter**, mark **all** the **BE** verbs in your **INTRO** and **CONCLUSION**. These words include

be	been	am	is	are	was	were	has	have	had		
can	could	shall	should	will	would	may	get	go	do	does	did

***NOW GET RID OF THESE WEAK, TIRED, INACTIVE verbs!! Let there be life!!**

Instead of: I **was** born on.... **Write:** My mother **delivered** a healthy...

Instead of: I **am** now 17 years old... **Write:** Seventeen years later, I **attend**...

4. Star any **THERE IS** or **THERE ARE/THERE WERE** at the beginnings of your sentences and eliminate them by revising.

Instead of: **There are** three boys in my family.

Write: Three boys **keep** my parents hopping.

5. Check a verb from each paragraph of your paper. Are the verbs in the same tense? If not, fix them. They should **ALL** be past tense verbs in intro and mostly present tense in conclusion!

6. Look for the sneaky 2nd person **YOU** that might have slipped into your paper. Circle any **YOU**s that you see in your paper and eliminate them.

7. Circle the expletives **IT, THAT, THIS, THOSE, THESE** at the beginning of any sentences. Now revise to **ELIMINATE**. Starting sentences with these words causes unclear pronoun reference.

8. **Vary the BEGINNINGS of your sentences.** Look at how many of your sentences start with the word "I," especially in your introduction and conclusion. You may **NOT have more than one sentence that starts in the same way.** For this paper, **YOU MUST INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE** of the sentence intros listed below in both the intro **AND** conclusion. Copy the sentence from your paper that utilizes one of the structures on the lines below. If you don't currently have any of these structures, revise until you do! **Remember to use your parallel structure sentence in your intro!**

Turn over to continue the self-edit process!

A. Single word adverb intro: (Slowly, Surprisingly, Unexpectedly,)

B. Prepositional Phrase intro: (preposition + a noun) (aboard, about, above, across, among, along, around, between, before, down, except, for, from, in, into, like, near, of, off, on, over, past, since, underneath, up, upon, with, within, without)

C. Single word adjective intro: (Sad, Depressed, Surprised, Hesitant, Lost,)

D. Adverb Clause intro: (As, After, Since, Because, Although, When, While). Remember that introductory clauses are followed by a comma.

10. Look at **the first sentence** of your research paper here:

Will it capture your reader's attention? Does it have a "be" verb in it? Can you vary the sentence beginning with a phrase, clause or single word adjective or adverb? Revise it and write an improved version.

11. Look at **the last sentence** of your research paper here:

Is it strong? Does it have a "be" verb in it? Can you vary the sentence beginning? Does it bring your essay full circle? Revise it and write an improved version.

or Did you somehow link your clincher (last sentence of conclusion) to your motivator (first sentence(s) of intro)?

Take the time to write it right!