

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 **YOUS** 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!