

Shadow Journal Self-Edit

Complete this exercise utilizing your completed typed rough draft.

Do the editing ON THE HARD COPY!

You will turn in the MESSY self edit for points!

1. Read your whole paper through OUT LOUD without stopping. Does it make sense? If not, improve it! Did you divide it into logical paragraphs and NOT just run it all together in one long 2 page paragraph? Is it 2 full pages long?

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

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

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

3. With a highlighter, circle **all** the **BE** verbs in your paper that stand alone. These words include

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

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

Instead of: I got to see how a pharmacist spends his day.

Write: I witnessed first hand a pharmacist's daily routine.

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

Instead of: There were a few things that frustrated me about the shadow.

Write: The fact that I didn't see patients frustrated me.

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!

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. Refer to the person you shadowed by his/her LAST name after the first reference. (Morrison showed me, Nelson stated that)

8. **Vary the BEGINNINGS of your sentences.** Look at how many of your sentences start with the word "**I**" or "**My.**" You may NOT have more than one sentence that starts in the same way in any paragraph! (For example, do you have 3 sentences in the same parag. that start with the word *The*?) Revise using these constructions!

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.

