

REVISING YOUR ESSAY: EDITING AND PROOFREADING TIPS

Please revise your essays and type it according to MLA FORMAT. Remember that revising means that you are improving your essay, not just correcting surface errors.

Here is a checklist. Before you touch the keyboard, consider the following:

1. Look at the big picture. Can you make some big changes, such as add or remove a paragraph, change your introduction, etc.? Does the story begin and end in a way that feels complete to you?
2. Do you have a thesis? What is the point of your story? A thesis can be a sentence in which you explain the point and state it explicitly, often found at the end of an introduction. However, in narrative essays, writers often have an "implicit thesis" that is inferred through the reading itself and does not appear as one sentence. Ask yourself, "Will readers understand the point of my story given the details I've provided? What deeper understanding will they gain after having read my essay?" If you are not confident that your readers will fully understand the point of your story, this means you have more explaining to do! Make sure YOU know the point of your story and see how you can strengthen and enhance it to fully make those ideas clear.
3. Are your body paragraphs clearly focused? Do they have topic sentences?
4. Have you included transitions to improve logic and flow?
5. Do you use specific, concrete examples to explain your story? Are your examples told with clear descriptions and vivid details?
6. Have you included enough details about your thought process and the meaning/significance of your examples? Make sure you include some reflection to tell the readers how the story affected you and how you've changed as a result (analysis).
7. Can you add a relevant quotation to explain any part of your narrative? If so, have you cited your source in a Works Cited list? (Optional for this paper)
8. Have you carefully proofread your final copy? It helps print out a draft and read it aloud with a pencil in hand. You'll be surprised at how many errors you catch this way.
 - A. SENTENCE CLARITY: Do all sentences make sense?
 - B. CONCISION: Are all sentences worded as tightly as possible with exact wording?
 - C. Is each sentence a complete sentence, not a fragment, with a subject and verb?
 - D. Are your verbs in the correct tense and form?
 - E. Have you used the correct word form? Homophones are words that sound the same but have different meaning and spelling. You cannot rely on spellcheck! Make sure it's the correct word.
 - F. Have you checked for missing/correct punctuation? Commas, Apostrophes, Capital Letters?

Finally, after you have typed up your paper using correct MLA Formatting, please staple your paper copy to the back of your final draft.

Good luck! (See MLA formatting on the next page)

Tonya Harding

Professor Morales

English 101

1 March 2018

The Price of Success

When I began ice skating at the age of six, I never dreamed that one day I would be a contender for the United States Olympic Figure Skating Team. I never imagined that one day, winning would be so important to me that I would lose all sense of decency and forget the rules of sportsmanship. Winning became so important to me that all I could see was a gold medal gleaming in my hands. Because of my poor sportsmanship, not only did I never get to the Olympics, but I lost the respect of the skating community and the rest of the world.