

Self-Editing Strategy Practice: Overview

Assignment Goals

- ☑ Recognize and correct your own grammatical errors.
- ☑ Discover self-editing strategies that work well for you, to continue using in the future.
- ☑ Become a more independent and self-aware writer.

What is self-editing?

Self-editing is the skill and process of looking for and correcting mistakes in your own writing. Usually, self-editing focuses on grammar and mechanics, and it's something all writers should do. Taking time to self-edit shows that you want to communicate clearly and make a good impression on your audience.

When should I self-edit?

It's often best to edit your draft once you are satisfied with the content and organization of the writing so that you don't spend too much time editing sentences that you don't keep in the final draft. However, you might find that it works well to self-edit at a few different points in your writing process.

How will we practice self-editing strategies?

This semester, you'll try a variety of self-editing strategies to help you edit your writing projects. Some of these strategies might seem strange or uncomfortable, but I ask that you trust me and try them. In the end, you'll know which strategies you liked the best and which ones worked well for you. Then, you'll have these strategies to keep using in the future. You'll become a more independent writer, aware of your own strengths, and able to notice and improve weaker areas.

Even after practicing self-editing strategies, your writing will probably still have some mistakes. That's ok! Remember that our main goal in writing is to communicate. The biggest problem with mistakes is when they keep the reader from understanding your ideas. Of course, in some situations, it's really important to have writing that is virtually error-free (like when writing a cover letter for a job application). These self-editing strategies will help you at those times, too.

Each time we try a self-editing strategy, you'll get information about how and why that strategy is useful and instructions for how to try it on your own writing. Then, you'll complete a short reflection to help you identify how well it worked for you and whether or not you'd like to use that strategy again in the future.