

Introduction

You have researched the topic, prepared an outline, and have written your assignment. But wait! Before handing it in, give yourself time to review your writing.

Editing your own work is difficult, but necessary. It is best to leave time between finishing your writing and starting your editing. Make your own editing checklist using the items under 'key points' as a start. Then refer to the marking guide (or assessment criteria) for the particular assignment to add other items to your checklist.

Key points

First, look at the overall structure and organisation of your assignment. Make sure you have:

- an **introduction** that tells your reader what the assignment is about
- separate **paragraphs** for each main idea
- paragraphs that follow a **logical** order
- a **conclusion** that reminds your reader of the main points
- a **list of references** for the sources you have used in your work

Second, inspect your writing in detail.

- Use computer-based spelling and grammar checks to identify errors.
- Use a dictionary to double-check the meaning of any words you are not sure of
- Be sure you have used technical words from the subject correctly
- Trust your ears. Reading out loud shows up repetition, punctuation and other problems

Try this:

- Step 1** Print out a copy of the attached [checklist](#)
- Step 2** Add to the checklist to make a guide for a particular assessment task. Read the 'Assessment criteria' (marking guide) listed in the unit outline and add them to your checklist.
- Step 3** Print out a hard copy of your assignment. Let it lie for a day or so – if you have time.
- Step 4** Read through your work several times, checking it against each point in your checklist. Make any necessary changes to your work.
- Step 5** Hand in your assignment confident that it is a professionally-presented piece of work!
- An additional technique is to work with a classmate to review each other's work.**
- Step 6** Consult on the checklist and exchange work with each other. Think about how you can provide constructive feedback to each other.

Good luck

Useful Links:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=ezi42Bqj4d4>

This short presentation shows you how to revise your work in three stages.***

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/owlprint/690/>

A clear guide to the two levels of revision; the 'big picture' and the 'particular details'.

This is a resource for students writing longer essays.**

Editing checklist: An example

Structure	
Introduction	My introduction tells the reader what the essay/report is about
Paragraphs	Each paragraph has a topic sentence which introduces the rest of the paragraph
	There is a new paragraph for each main idea
	The paragraphs follow on from each other in a logical order
Conclusion	My conclusion summarises the main points
References	Citations used throughout the assignment are set out correctly e.g (Smith, 2015)
	The List of References at the end of the assignment is complete, with correct use of the relevant referencing system (e.g. APA; Harvard) Check the Swinburne Library guide: http://www.swinburne.edu.au/library/referencing/
Language	
Punctuation	I have read my written piece aloud to see where to stop or pause for full stops, question marks, exclamation marks, and commas.
	I have included quotation marks where needed.
Capital Letters	I have used capital letters for proper noun
Grammar	My sentences are complete thoughts and contain a noun and a verb.
Spelling	I have checked my spelling and fixed the words that don't look right
Assignment assessment criteria (add these from the guidelines set out for the particular assignment)	
Criterion 1: Literature review section	Relevant literature has been selected for discussion
	The literature is summarised clearly, with identification of key debates
Criterion 2: Findings section	Brief outlining of method used in the study
	Clear organisation of findings, with identification of main themes
Criterion 3: Discussion section	Effective linking of findings to the literature
	Discussion of main implications of the study

Editing checklist

Structure		Yes	No	Comments
Introduction	My introduction tells the reader what the essay/report is about			
Paragraphs	Each paragraph has a topic sentence which introduces the rest of the paragraph			
	There is a new paragraph for each main idea			
	The paragraphs follow on from each other in a logical order			
Conclusion	My conclusion summarises the main points			
References	Citations used throughout the assignment are set out correctly e.g (Smith, 2015)			
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Language				
Punctuation	I have read my written piece aloud to see where to stop or pause for full stops, question marks, exclamation marks, and commas.			
	I have included quotation marks where needed.			
Capital Letters	I have used capital letters for proper noun			
Grammar	My sentences are complete thoughts and contain a noun and a verb.			
Spelling	I have checked my spelling and fixed the words that don't look right			
Assignment assessment criteria (add these from the guidelines set out for the particular assignment)				
Criterion 1:				
Criterion 2:				
Criterion 3:				

Additional work to do:

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