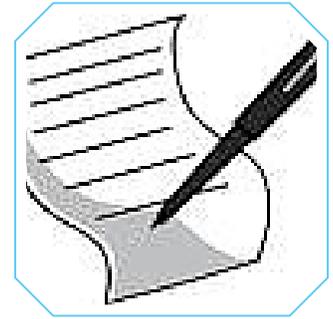


REVISING/EDITING TIPS

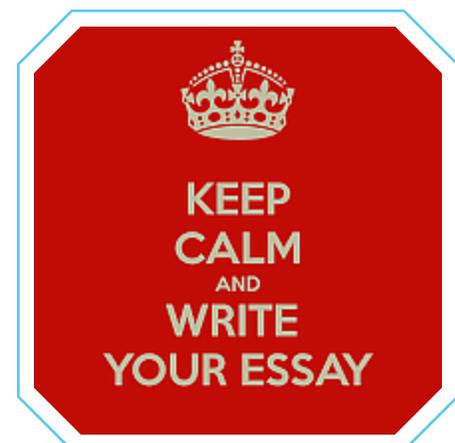
STOP! BEFORE YOU TURN THAT ESSAY IN, HAVE YOU REVISED AND EDITED IT? I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT JUST CHECKING FOR GRAMMAR MISTAKES. DID YOU REALLY LOOK AT IT?



IF YOU'RE LOST AND DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START, DON'T WORRY. I'VE BEEN THERE BEFORE. SO SIT DOWN, RELAX, TAKE OUT A SHEET OF PAPER AND PEN, BREW UP A HOT CUP OF COFFEE (OR TEA, IF YOU'RE THAT KIND OF PERSON), AND ENJOY. I'LL MAKE THIS AS INTERESTING AND ENGAGING AS I POSSIBLY CAN. :-)

1. WHAT I BELIEVE TENDS TO HAPPEN WITH WRITING IS THAT WE THINK WHATEVER WE COME UP WITH IS THE MOST AMAZING THING EVER. WE PRAISE IT BECAUSE WE CAME UP WITH IT. WHEN TYPING PAPERS, THOUGHTS LIKE "WOW, THIS IS GONNA BLOW MY PROFESSOR AWAY." OR "WAIT 'TILL MY PROFESSOR READS THIS. I'M GONNA GET AN A FOR SURE." POP IN YOUR HEAD. HOLD ON. TAKE A STEP BACK. FINISH WRITING YOUR PAPER, THEN LEAVE IT ALONE FOR A DAY. DON'T TOUCH IT. DON'T LOOK AT IT. DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT. PRETEND YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A PAPER DUE IN LESS THAN THREE DAYS. HAHA. AFTER THAT DAY IS OVER, REREAD YOUR PAPER WITH NEW, FRESH EYES. OK THAT SOUNDED REALLY WEIRD, BUT DO YOU GET WHAT I MEAN? THAT 24 HOUR BREAK IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEEDED TO READ YOUR PAPER PROPERLY. YOU CAN CATCH THE MISTAKES/AWKWARD WORDING YOU DIDN'T FIND BEFORE. YOU MIGHT ALSO HAVE NEW IDEAS/TOPICS YOU WANT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PAPER. WRITE YOUR PAPER, SET IT DOWN FOR A DAY, AND THEN GET BACK TO IT.

2. THIS MIGHT SOUND REALLY WEIRD, BUT IT WORKS. READING YOUR ESSAY IN YOUR HEAD ISN'T THE SAME AS LISTENING TO IT OUT LOUD. IF YOU'RE SHY ABOUT YOUR VOICE, TRY USING GOOGLE TRANSLATE. COPY PASTE YOUR WHOLE ESSAY INTO IT, AND PRESS THE LISTEN BUTTON. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FIND MISTAKES AND HEAR THE "FLOW" OF YOUR ESSAY BETTER.



3. BE HONEST. HOW WOULD YOU NORMALLY EDIT YOUR ESSAYS? CHECK FOR A COUPLE GRAMMAR MISTAKES, CHANGE A WORD HERE AND THERE, MAYBE ADD A WORD THERE, AND THEN CALL IT A DAY? THAT'S NOT THE WAY TO GO. INSTEAD OF EDITING YOUR ESSAY BY FOCUSING ON INDIVIDUAL WORDS/WORD CHOICE, TRY FOCUSING ON YOUR OVERALL ESSAY AS A WHOLE. LOOK FOR PATTERNS, STRUCTURE, A MAIN FRAMEWORK THAT YOUR ESSAY FOLLOWS AND GO WITH THAT. IF YOU CAN'T FIND THAT MAIN FRAMEWORK OR STRUCTURE, NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO IMPLEMENT ONE. IT'S COMMON FOR YOU TO THINK THAT YOUR ESSAY HAS TO FOLLOW A CERTAIN THESIS STATEMENT AND ALL YOUR PARAGRAPHS HAVE TO GO BACK TO THAT THESIS STATEMENT, THE "FIVE PARAGRAPH TRAP." THREE PARAGRAPHS, EACH DESCRIBING SOMETHING GOING BACK TO YOUR THESIS. WE'VE BEEN TAUGHT THAT FOR YEARS IN HIGH SCHOOL. BUT THAT ACTUALLY LIMITS/RESTRICTS YOUR IDEAS. COLLEGE PAPERS AREN'T LIKE HIGH SCHOOL PAPERS. YOU'RE GOING TO WRITE A LOT MORE AND THREE-POINT PARAGRAPHS AREN'T GOING TO CUT IT.

4. REMEMBER THAT WRITING IS A PROCESS. EVEN THE BEST WRITERS STRUGGLE. "WITHOUT STRUGGLE, THERE IS NO PROGRESS." IF YOU'RE LOOKING AT YOUR FIRST DRAFT, AND THINKING "WOW, THIS IS REALLY CRAPPY." DON'T WORRY. FIRST DRAFTS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE CRAPPY. NOBODY HAS TIME TO MAKE A PERFECT FIRST DRAFT. THAT JUST DOESN'T HAPPEN. THINK OF YOUR CRAPPY DRAFT AS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT. AS YOU WRITE YOUR SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH, AND SO ON DRAFTS, YOU'LL GET BETTER AND BETTER.

5. FIND AN OUTSIDE PERSON TO READ YOUR PAPER. GET HIS/HER FEEDBACK. IF YOU READ AND LISTENED TO YOUR ESSAY OUT LOUD AND ARE STILL CONVINCED THAT YOUR PAPER IS THE BEST THING THAT'S EVER BEEN PLACED ON PLANET EARTH AND THAT NOTHING IS WRONG WITH IT, THEN WAKE UP AND SMELL THE REALITY. JUST KIDDING. BUT SERIOUSLY, YOU GOTTA FIND AN OUTSIDE PERSON, WHETHER IT'S A FRIEND, PEER, TEACHER, OR TUTOR TO READ YOUR ESSAY AND LISTEN TO THEIR FEEDBACK.

WITH THESE FIVE TIPS, I HOPE TO BESTOW UPON YOU THE MAGICAL GIFT OF THAT A+ ON YOUR NEXT PAPER. IF YOU DON'T GET AN A+, WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO? THIS ARTICLE WAS FREE. REMEMBER, IT'S OKAY TO BE LOST WHEN WRITING. JUST TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND TACKLE YOUR ESSAY LITTLE BY LITTLE. THE WORST THING YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR PAPER IS PROCRASTINATE, BECAUSE IF YOU DO, A LOT OF THESE TIPS WON'T BE OF ANY USE TO YOU. START EARLY, FINISH EARLY.

Bibliography

Digital image. Clipart Best. N.p., n.d. Web. 30 Jan. 2016.
<<http://www.clipartbest.com/essay-clipart>>.

Digital image. Amanda Wahlborg, 28 Jan. 2015. Web. 30 Jan. 2016. <http://writingteachersccsd.blogspot.com/2015/01/in-october-10-th-grade-teachers-at.html>>.

Sommers, Nancy. "Revision Strategies of Student Writers and Experienced Adult Writers." National Council of Teachers of English (1980): n. pag. Web. 30 Jan. 2016.
<http://psychology.yale.edu/sites/default/files/sommers_onrevision_strategies.pdf>.