

Tips for Revising and Editing Papers

Thesis	1. Read the thesis. Does it make a strong argument? Does it provide some concrete, detailed information that lets the reader know what to expect in the paper.
Introduction	2. Read the introduction. Can the reader tell what question or problem is being addressed? Can the reader tell why he or she should care about this question or problem?
Topic Sentences	3. Read the first sentence—or possibly first two sentences—of each body paragraph. Do they relate back to the main argument? Can you tell what the overall thrust of the paper’s argument is?
Transitions between Paragraphs	4. Read the last sentence of each paragraph next to the first sentence of the following paragraph. Do the transitions between paragraphs work?
Flow of Ideas and Argument	5. Next, read the whole paper from beginning to end. Does the paper flow well? Are there any major jumps between ideas? If there are, have you signaled them properly?
Grammar & Spelling	6. At this point, also look for basic grammar or spelling mistakes.
Style	7. Finally, if you have time, read through once again, this time aloud. Do any of the sentences sound clumsy, awkward, or just plain wrong? Are there ways to make your sentences more concise? Also, look for needless repetition in words or ideas. Last, read through for parallel structure.

