

Self-Editing for Rough Draft #2

*****See the links and lists on the website for help editing and improving your style.**

1. **Sentence Variety:** # each sentence in each essay. Look for length, variety, openings, closings, and verb choice in each sentence. Add variety and powerful sentences. You may need to combine some sentences if you are repeating info.
2. **Is it about YOU?:** How many sentences or words are about you? Does it describe you? Where? How? Your voice/style?
3. **Be specific:** Replace “it” and “this” and “that” with specifics. Replace “There was” and “there were,” “thing,” “very” and other adverbs with details and specifics names. SHOW-concrete vs abstract.
4. **Power Verbs:** Circle all weak verbs, passive voice, and verbs of being- “am, is, are, was, were, would, could, went, said, go, etc.” Replace with active voice and powerful verbs.
5. **Deadwood- Be concise:** Eliminate wordiness. Say it in the fewest words possible. Eliminate “I think,” “I believe,” “I feel.” Don’t say “the fact of the matter is” or “In my opinion.” Delete clichés, redundancies, and “It made me who I am today.”
6. **Overall Structure:** Opening, Closing, transitions between paragraphs and within paragraphs. Does each paragraph connect to the topic sentence? Highlight each topic sentence. Read only those. Does the essay make sense with just those sentences? Do they summarize your essay? How? Proof? Elaboration? Examples? Does each piece of evidence following the topic sentence support the topic sentence? Do you know why you are making that a paragraph? See sample essays for structure.
7. **Visit the website** and use the links and docs to help with all of the issues in your paper. Take your time. Look at the examples and try to rewrite each sentence that remains. Make every sentence count!
8. *****Download the *Peer Response #2* document (questions 1-24) and the *Personal Statement Rubric (writer’s name is you)* to use to have your peers edit and score Rough Draft #3 tomorrow.**