



Revise & Edit Part Three

With Instructor Jaimie Engle



fiction



Why A Crappy First Draft?

In a first draft, you imagine the scene then write what you see, creating condensed notes.

“She ran through the woods.”

In the revision, you take those notes and add sensory details to recreate what you imagined.

“She pressed through the evergreens, unable to see through the dense needles that raked against her skin and drew blood.”

EXAMPLES

“And sent strong gusts of wind at them sending them tumbling down the hallway like they were nothing more than fall leaves riding the breeze.”

“And sent strong gusts to push them tumbling down the hallway like fall leaves riding the breeze.”

EXAMPLES

“The Ferine sprang into action immediately. They each grabbed their weapons and disappeared as they ran down the spiraling stairs of their gate

“The Ferine sprang into action, grabbed their weapons and disappeared down the spiraling gate tower stairs.”

EXAMPLES

“But with each step I took, I felt like I was walking a path that would lead me back to him.”

“I stepped, believing my path would lead back to him.”

EXAMPLES

“The path climbed at a steep angle upward and I could feel the fresh air breezing in.”

“The upward path angled steeply; fresh air breezed in.”

Change it Up...

1. I walk quickly down the hallway. With each step, I peer back over my shoulder to make sure that I'm not being followed closely behind.
 2. His knees quaked as he watched the creature move closer.
 3. I smile widely in awe of the true beauty around me.
 4. With a big exhale, he wiped his forehead and crouched into position waiting for the creature to pounce fiercely upon his crouched form.
 5. Her hair was golden brown and fell past her shoulders like honey wheat in a large field, and it looked like the same color brown as my sister's only it fell past her shoulders and my sister's didn't.
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7 Drafts to Submission

1. **First Draft** - Sloppy Copy. Print Out. Simmer 1-3 months.
 2. **Second Draft** - Structure, Characters, Scenes, and Plot Holes
 3. **Third Draft** - Fix Draft Two Issues, Add Scenes, & Begin Expanding Narrative From Condensed Notes to Actual Book
 4. **Fourth Draft** - Continue Word Crafting, Connect Themes & Add Foreshadows, and Research Word Choice & Details
 5. **Fifth Draft** - Continue Word Crafting, Work on Personal Writing Weaknesses, Verify Cliffhangers, and Check Uniqueness in Dialogue.
 6. **Sixth Draft** - Read aloud. When perfect, record and play it back. When perfect, move on to the next chapter. This usually takes 3-5 reads per.
 7. **Seventh Draft** - Select a Variety of Beta Readers and Wait for Reviews.
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I'm Finished...Now What?

Now, it's time to let your book simmer. I wait from 1-3 months, that way when I read it, my story is fresh so I can see mistakes. Print out a copy, hole punch it, and place it in a three ring binder.

In the **second draft**, read the entire manuscript from start to finish. Only make the following notes:

1. Day and Night Transitions for Continuity
2. A Running List of All Characters with A One Line Description
3. Places Where Story Lure or Plot Discrepancies Occur

Note any structural issues, but do not make any changes. Not even to dot an i.

Draft Three

Now that you've compiled a comprehensive list, begin fixing those issues. In this draft, you may find you need to add pages or paragraphs, change story lure, and adjust characters for continuity.

As you go through the manuscript, adjusting to your notes, begin to expand your story notes into vivid, sensory detailed chapters. I generally rewrite almost every sentence during this draft.

Draft Four

Back at the beginning again. In this draft you will continue word crafting as you go. In addition, begin to draw out the theme by making purposed connections through foreshadows, plot, and dialogue.

In this draft, you may use the computer to research specific details and a thesaurus to expand word choice. Especially note those words you tend to overuse and find alternatives. This draft takes almost as long as the third draft, but your story is beginning to take shape.

Draft Five

Back at the beginning. In draft five, continue word crafting while verifying each chapter has a distinct cliffhanger to force the page turn. Study the dialogue and make certain each character has a distinct voice that you can differentiate without dialogue tags. Continue to layer the story with great attention to detail in secondary plot and characters. Even if you don't show these reasons in the book, you need to know their motivations and backstory. In this draft, I almost always find a deep story thread that I had built into the story subliminally. It's my favorite part of the writing process.

Draft Six

This could be the most important and most overlooked draft.

1. Read aloud each chapter one at a time. As you stumble over words, you must change or delete them. If you find you reread anything, you must change or delete it. If you, the creator, get tripped up, your reader most certainly will.
2. Once you are able to read the entire chapter without a pause, record it. Play it back and note any place where the sentences sound weird or cause you to focus on the wording, not the story. These must be fixed or deleted.

I generally read and edit each chapter 3-5 separate times, so essentially this is like drafts 6-9 or 6-11. Your tongue moves differently than your brain. Addressing the sound of each word and flow from sentence to sentence, will separate your manuscript from the rest.

Draft Seven

This is perhaps the scariest moment for a writer. You will pick a select group of beta readers and let your book go

out into other people's hands

for criticism, critique, and

(hopefully) praise.



Who Should Beta Read?

Of course, you will want your best friend and family to read your book. But they will love it no matter what because you wrote it. When compiling beta readers, you should include:

1. Professionals - Authors, Teachers, Editors, and Critique Group Partners understand the mechanics of storytelling. They should be honest, yet helpful in their approach and criticism.
2. Readers - Reviewers, Target Audience Participants, and Students will give you their opinion as a customer.
3. Outsourced - Online Critique Groups, Conferences, and Editors can beta read your book, but there is usually a cost, and a cap on time or pages.

Remember, these people are sharing their opinions. Only change your manuscript if you totally agree or if more than 2 beta readers share the same issue.

non-fiction



Descriptive Essays

- Sensory Details
- Five Senses
- Descriptive Vocabulary
- Colorful Writing

Descriptive essays should read COHERENTLY and UNIFIED from paragraph to paragraph through ORGANIZATION.

Revising your descriptive essay

- Have you provided enough details and descriptions to enable your readers to gain a complete and vivid perception?
 - Have you left out any minor but important details?
 - Have you used words that convey your emotion or perspective?
 - Are there any unnecessary details in your description?
 - Does each paragraph of your essay focus on one aspect of your description?
 - Are your paragraphs ordered in the most effective way?
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Narrative Essay

- Storytelling
- Experiences
- Others
- History or Study Topics
- “What-if” Scenarios

Utilize the storytelling elements of character, plot, and setting or take a story you know and retell it in your own words.

Revising your narrative essay:

- After spending time away from the draft of your narrative essay, read through the essay and think about whether the writing effectively recreates the experience for your readers.
 - Ask other people to read through the essay and offer their impressions.
 - Identify where more details and descriptions are needed.
 - Identify and consider removing any information that seems to distract from the focus and main narrative of the essay.
 - Think about whether you've presented information in the most effective order.
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Expository Essays

- State your main idea
- Show at least 3 support facts
- Direct writing to specific audience
- Remember the hourglass formula

These essays include a main purpose or thesis with a purpose written to your toughest audience and in a presentation format.

Revising your expository essay:

- Do you have an hourglass essay: broad statement, specific to thesis, thesis with support?
 - Is your thesis broad enough to support?
 - Do you have three supports that can be broken down into 3-5 sentences?
 - Did you include transitions?
 - Have you repeated your thesis in each paragraph?
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Persuasive Essay

- Hook your reader
- Provide an argument
- Support your argument with facts
- Supply the opposing viewpoint
- Persuade audience or at least get them thinking

Remember to SAY IT:

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| S | STATE YOUR SUBJECT |
| A | KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE |
| Y | IDENTIFY YOURSELF |
| I | KNOW YOUR INTENTION |
| T | DECIDE ON THE TONE |

blogging



Blogging

- Discover what's trending
- Find the industry leaders
- Use keywords and topics
- Provide your opinion
- Backlink and Share
- Use everyday talk, not flowery writing

Find an article that's trending in your field, quote a portion with backlinks, and write your agreement or disagreement and why.

Share your article with the author of the quoted portion and industry leaders to go viral.

Blogs Must Be Short, Sweet, and Easy

- Did you write short paragraphs with hooks?
 - Have you separated paragraphs with bulleted or numbered lists?
 - Are keywords and phrases in bold and italics?
 - Do you have at least one back link and internal link in the blog?
 - Did you include a CTA?
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About Your Instructor:

Jaimie Engle is an award-winning children's book author from Melbourne, Florida. Before releasing her anti-bullying fantasy adventure, *Clifton Chase and the Arrow of Light*, she ran a body shop, played an alien on TV, and managed a hip-hop band. Her book on publishing was an Amazon #1 New Release, and her novel *Metal Mouth* is a contender for the 2020-2021 Florida Sunshine State List.

More at www.theWRITEengle.com.