

Tips for Editing Papers



Move from a writer-based draft to a reader-based draft.

Early drafts in the writing process are an opportunity for you to brainstorm and experiment with your paper. After finishing a draft, try reading and editing your paper as an "outsider" to see if it makes sense.



Pull out the first and last sentences from each paragraph.

String these sentences together, in order, to ensure that these sentences clearly signpost the direction your paper is going and are helpful to the reader.



Pick out your main ideas.

Read through your paper to find the overarching key points and the major argument(s) in each paragraph. Move these key points to the beginning of each section of your paper.



Justify your evidence.

Assess why you have included your evidence. Then try to come up with at least one counter-example or counterargument. This will expose weaknesses in your paper.



After reading, write an outline of your draft.

Pull out the main concepts of each paragraph and line them up in order to see how your argument progresses and if the structure of your paper makes sense.

The **Writing Center** is a useful resource for more personalized assistance on specific writing assignments. Make an appointment at: <https://brynmawr.mywconline.com/>



Office of Academic Support
Campus Center 1st Floor
Undergraduate College Division