

Strategies for Improving Your Writing: Proofread From the End of Your Paper to the Beginning

Catch the mistakes in your paper before your instructor catches them!

Try this proofreading technique—one of the most successful strategies possible! Doing this will help you SLOW DOWN and see better what is *actually* on the page, rather than what you *think* is there.

- Read your draft from the end of the paper to the beginning:
 Read the LAST sentence first,
 then the next-to-last sentence,
 and so on all the way back to the beginning of the paper.

- STOP anytime you feel a twinge of doubt about any sentence you are reading. Reread any sentence you stop on—and perhaps the sentences before and after it.
 Can you determine what is wrong?
 Can you correct it so that you are satisfied with the sentence?

If you cannot figure out what's wrong, just put a mark by the sentence and keep reading to the beginning of your paper. Later, ask your teacher, a tutor, or a knowledgeable friend about any errors you're not sure how to fix.

For quick grammar help, check these websites:

Proofreading Your Writing

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/561/01/>

Editing and Proofreading

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/proofread.html>

Proofreading for Common Errors

http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/proofing_grammar.shtml