

WRITING: SELF EDITING

Purpose

Review and revise your own essay using the entire [OER Project Writing Rubric](#). Assessing your own essay against the rubric and making suggestions for improvement will help you improve your historical writing skills.

Process

1. Your teacher will let you know which essay you'll be reviewing for this activity. Follow the directions starting on the next page. Note: If there is any aspect of your essay that you feel doesn't need revision (for example: claim and focus, or analysis and evidence), provide an explanation in which you point out the features of your writing that make it exemplary (be sure to connect your explanation to specific criteria from the rubric).
2. Once you're done, be prepared to discuss your revision process with the class.

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Step 1: Claim and Focus

Identify the major claim in the essay and add it below. Then, rewrite that claim to improve it. Next, pick one area of focus that you think needs improvement and write the original and an edited version of that.

Original major claim:

Revised major claim:

Original focus:

Revised focus:

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Step 2: Analysis and Evidence

Find one piece of evidence and one analysis statement you can improve upon (it could even be adding a new sentence if you forgot to add evidence or analyze the evidence that was provided). Write the original and rewritten statements.

Original evidence:

Revised or additional evidence:

Original analysis statement:

Revised analysis statement:

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Step 3: Organization

Look at the organization of the essay and find one area that could have been better organized. You might need to add a transition sentence or even rearrange some text. Write your suggestions for improvement below.

Original organization text:

Revised organization text:

Step 4: Language and Style

Look at your use of language and style and improve upon one area of the essay. Even if there aren't any obvious errors, our writing can almost always benefit from more precise language or domain-specific vocabulary to make our arguments even stronger.

Original language and style text:

Revised language and style text: