

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.
- **Go through your paper and write down what your *evidence* is** (e.g. quotes and paraphrases of specific information from reading material—anything you need to cite).
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Read your paper *out loud & backwards*.**
- **Give yourself *time*.** Put your draft away for a day or so, so that you can review it with fresh eyes.
- ❖ **The Writing Center** is a useful resource for more personalized assistance on specific writing assignments. <http://www.brynmawr.edu/writingcenter/>

Don't forget to use your resources! <http://www.brynmawr.edu/academicsupport/StudentSupportServices.html>

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