

LUC WRITING CENTER – “READING ALOUD TO REVISE”

When writing, it is useful to understand the three writing and reading perspectives that can help you revise your completed draft. By adopting each of these roles, “switching between hats,” you can hear and see mistakes or “rough” passages or sentences in your paper that can easily be corrected.

1. The Reader’s Perspective

You’ve finished a draft you’re happy with. But unless you’re writing in a journal for no one else to see, your writing will never achieve its purpose without reaching readers. For that reason, it is important to keep in mind that your writing should sound good not just in your head, but to your reader as well. *Ask yourself the following questions:*

- Is my purpose for writing clear?
- Have I considered the questions and concerns of my audience?
- Have I written in the form and style appropriate for this genre of writing? For example, does my book review look and read like a book review?
- Have I included sufficient examples and supporting details?

Suggested technique: have a friend read your writing aloud to you. Make note of where they stumble, or begin to sound confused.

2. The Writer’s Perspective

Yes, your writing is for an audience, but it is still your writing. It is also to make sure you are happy with what you have written, that they sound like you and express your ideas and attitudes accurately. *Ask yourself:*

- Does my introduction or lead succeed in grabbing the reader's attention?
- Does my conclusion successfully bring my writing to a close?
- Do my paragraphs flow from one to the other well?
- Have I organized my ideas in a way that makes sense to the reader?

Suggested technique: Read your writing aloud to yourself expressively. Also, give yourself at least a few days away from the writing you’ve produced so it will sound fresh to you.

3. The Editor’s Perspective (i.e. Proofreading)

After revising, try one of these proofreading techniques to polish your writing:

- Use a computer’s text-to-speech function to have it read your writing aloud to you to help you catch run-on sentences, over-used words, spelling errors, and typos.
- Read backwards. Start with the last sentence of your piece and read one sentence at a time from the end to the beginning. By focusing on one sentence at a time, you’ll notice ways to improve your writing more easily than reading quickly through your draft from start to finish.

Adapted from: [“How to Revise and Edit”](#) on ReadWriteThink.org