

Editing Tips: Before Turning in Your Paper.....

1. Get a smart friend. Make a pact to try to read each other's papers a final read. If you don't have any smart friends, buddy up with someone in the class. (Even the Chancellor Yang has someone read his speeches before delivering them.)
2. Leave enough time before the paper is due to read it over at least one last time, make revisions and another printout. (No excuses for technology problems, please!)
3. Look over the prompt and make sure the thesis responds to the key question.
4. Read the first sentence of each paragraph. Do they guide the reader to the topic of each paragraph? Do they guide the reader over the arc of your whole argument?
5. Read your paper backwards; that is read each sentence by itself from the bottom of the page to the top. That way you're looking at each sentence individually, not so much as a part of the familiar flow.
8. Pity the reader! Remember the purpose of the paper is to communicate your meaning to the reader. Have the courage to revise and "kill your darlings" (great ideas but somehow they didn't work in this paper).
7. Look over the grammar sheet.
6. Spellcheck! This is common courtesy!