

# *Research Paper Edit*

Because an excellent paper is usually one that has been revised and edited, you are going to practice what I preach in the following exercise.

## **Introduction Paragraph**

**1. Copy your title below. Or, if you are struggling with your title, consider the following: use only one key word from your paper, but use it in a clever way; use part of a quotation from a source.**

**2. Write your old title here:**

**3. Now, write a new title.**

**4. Write your hook below.**

**How did you hook your reader? What big picture can you use to introduce your essay? If you are struggling with your hook, consider the following:**

- **Can you use part of a quotation in a clever way?**
- **Can you use part of a story that ties in with your topic?**
- **Can you make a general statement about your topic?**

**5. Now, write your new hook.**

**6. Write your thesis and forecasting/preview statements below.**

**7. Do you have a strong, clear, concise thesis? If there are multiple components, can you address all of them? Do you have identifiable points that you will be addressing? Do they appear in the order that you eventually use in the body of the paper?**

## **Body Paragraph #1**

**1. Write the first sentence of the paragraph below.**

**How did you introduce the topic of this paragraph? How will the reader know what the topic is? Your topic sentence must exist and be strong and act as an umbrella statement for the ENTIRE paragraph. If it is missing, weak, or if it begins with a vague pronoun or wording such as “One example of...” or “The first mistake...” you must rewrite.**

**2. Now revise your first sentence if necessary.**

**3. Look at your body paragraph. Did you *clearly* address what you put forward in your topic sentence? Did you use specific examples and possibly a quote? Did you cite your source correctly? Are all points developed? List the specific examples and the quote(s):**

4. Check through the paragraph for the following:
- ✓ Did you use any first person references (I, me, my)? If so, remove them.
  - ✓ Did you use an in-text citation properly? If not, add one.
  - ✓ Did you use vague language (“thing,” “stuff,” etc.). If so, remove them.
  - ✓ Did you employ stylistic devices: parallel structure, semicolon/colon, sentence variety.

## Body Paragraph #2

1. Write the first sentence of the paragraph below.

How did you introduce the topic of this paragraph? How will the reader know what the topic is? Your topic sentence must exist and be strong and act as an umbrella statement for the ENTIRE paragraph. If it is missing, weak, or if it begins with a vague pronoun or wording such as “One example of...” or “The first mistake...” you must rewrite.

2. Now revise your first sentence if necessary as you enter it in the computer

3. Look at your body paragraph. Did you *clearly* address what you put forward in your topic sentence? Did you use specific examples and possibly a quote? Are all points developed? List the specific examples and the quote(s):

4. Check through the paragraph for the following:
- ✓ Did you use any first person references (I, me, my)? If so, remove them.
  - ✓ Did you use an in-text citation properly? If not, add one.
  - ✓ Did you use vague language (“thing,” “stuff,” etc.). If so, remove them.
  - ✓ Did you employ stylistic devices: parallel structure, semicolon/colon, sentence variety.

## Body Paragraph #3

1. Write the first sentence of the paragraph below.

**How did you introduce the topic of this paragraph? How will the reader know what the topic is? Your topic sentence must exist and be strong and act as an umbrella statement for the ENTIRE paragraph. If it is missing, weak, or if it begins with a vague pronoun or wording such as “One example of...” or “The first mistake...” you must rewrite.**

2. Now revise your first sentence if necessary as you enter it in the computer

3. Look at your body paragraph. Did you *clearly* address what you put forward in your topic sentence? Did you use specific examples and possibly a quote? Are all points developed? List the specific examples and the quote(s):

4. Check through the paragraph for the following:

- ✓ Did you use any first person references (I, me, my)? If so, remove them.
- ✓ Did you use an in-text citation properly? If not, add one.
- ✓ Did you use vague language (“thing,” “stuff,” etc.). If so, remove them.
- ✓ Did you employ stylistic devices: parallel structure, semicolon/colon, sentence variety.

## **Conclusion Paragraph and Final Review**

**1. Write the first sentence of the paragraph below.**

**2. How did you return to the big picture with this first sentence? Did you come back to the big picture you used in your thesis?**

**3. Go through your entire essay and check for first person references and entire sentence or quickly edit.**

**4. Check through the entire paper for the following:**

- ✓ **Did you use quotes correctly and cite them and paraphrasing?**
- ✓ **Are there any spelling mistakes that need to be fixed?**
- ✓ **If you didn't use both a semicolon and colon correctly, go back and do so.**