

How to Grade Your Own Writing

If you do not understand something in this section, ask your teacher to explain it or send us your question at [Ask the Editor](#).

How to grade your own writing

10 Things My Story Should NOT Have

Words to Define: orange words in the list

- a confusing plot
- a plot line that is the same as or very similar to the plot of a story that is not your own (**plagiarism**)
- real names of people (in fiction)
- personal information, such as telephone numbers and addresses
- **gratuitous** violence or gore
- words that might **offend** people
- incomplete sentences
- **rambling** or run-on sentences
- missing or incorrect punctuation
- misspelled words

Quick Checklist

Ask these questions about your writing:

Does it have a main idea?

Did I include supporting details?

Did I use good transitions?

Did I use complete sentences?

Is my spelling correct?

Is my capitalization correct?

Is my punctuation correct?

Give Me a Break!

Your first draft is finished. Now what? It's time for a break.

Sometimes you miss mistakes if you stare at your writing for a long time. So, put your writing away for a day or two. Come back to it after the break for a fresh look.

Use Second Pair of Eyes

Everyone's first draft could use a second pair of eyes to find mistakes. Ask a classmate, friend, or family member to **tell you if your main idea is clear, suggest changes you need to make, and help you find mistakes.**

Read Out Loud

Have a hard time finding mistakes in your writing? Try reading your work out loud. You might **hear** some of your mistakes.