

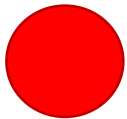


Revising and Editing Sentences for Better Clarity in your Paper

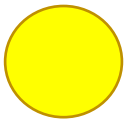
Many writers find that after they complete their rough draft, their sentences lack clarity, conciseness, topic focus, and/or correct conventions. When taking the next steps for an assignment, many struggle with following the thorough process of revising and editing needed to strongly write a paper that meets all assignment criteria. In order to make this time-consuming process a little less stressful, the Writing Center finds the stop light method most useful.

The Way the Method Works:

When re-reading/looking over your paper sometimes it's hard to identify what parts you should keep, edit, or delete. The Writing Center has recently come up with the stop light method which helps to ease the difficulty of hard decisions in regard to what you should keep in your paper by highlighting each sentence either in red, yellow, or green. The method allows the writer to take a closer look at each individual sentence within the paper to contemplate its connection to the assignment.



Red Light – The sentence adds no value to the paper; therefore, you should cut it out.



Yellow Light – The sentence adds some value, but it needs some editing, therefore you should highlight it and return to it later.



Green Light – The sentence adds value to the paper and needs no editing.

Try it out with this short piece of a literary analysis essay:

As Leonard gets to know her, he realizes that all she talks about is religion and just repeats what she hears but doesn't understand what it means. So, when Leonard asks her questions and she doesn't answer, he wonders "Why is it that people... hate you for stumping them? [He] [loves] questions that stump [him]" (154). Quick gives the reader ever so slight details within the footnotes that create the image of how Leonard thinks. Quick is so interested in "Leonard's psychology... communicated through [the] footnotes" instead of the regular text because of their importance (Kraus). Not only does Quick allow the reader into Leonard's mind, but he also gets them to think for themselves by asking questions for further engagement. Each footnote is deliberately added to give the readers a deeper understanding of the many facets within teenagers' minds and their own, while further bringing life to the characters and story on the page.