



Extreme
MAKEOVER

ESSAY EDITION

**7 WAYS TO SPRUCE UP YOUR
ROUGH DRAFT**

1. GET RID OF “ACCORDING TO THE TEXT, _____ “SAYS”

THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER WAYS OF INTRODUCING YOUR TEXTUAL EVIDENCE. LET'S EXPLORE THOSE OPTIONS! These tips are good for both direct quoting and paraphrasing!

1. You may integrate textual evidence right into the sentence with the use of quotation marks, but your quote from the text must make sense with your own words in the sentence.

For example: Charlie is so severely disappointed that he actually thinks “...everything is stupid” (19).

2. Another way to introduce textual evidence is to tell the reader you are doing so. For example: According to the author, “_____” (60).

Additional examples of this style are listed:

As noted on page 42,

For example, when the author states, “...”

An example of this occurs when the main character says, “...”

As stated in the text, the author illustrates this point when she states,

Toward the end of the story, Charlie says, “...”

For instance, as Dr. Strauss points out,

In the words of Miss Kinnian, “...”

3. Here is a list of common verbs used to introduce textual evidence. These are alternatives to the “says” verb! -- **argues, writes, concludes, reveals, observes, comments, maintains, suggests, insists, explains, counters, states, claims, demonstrates, notes, implies**

2. ADVERBS and ADJECTIVES do make a difference.

ADVERBS MODIFY VERBS.

Charlie takes the Rorschach Test.

Charlie reluctantly takes the Rorschach Test.

Charlie nervously awaits the results of his operation.

ADJECTIVES MODIFY NOUNS.

Charlie is a 37-year-old man who has a learning disability.

Charlie is a determined 37-year-old man who has a serious learning disability.

Charlie nervously awaits the crucial results of his risky operation.

Other tips:

PAINT A PICTURE. YOU SHOULD USE IMAGERY WHEN APPROPRIATE.

3. KEEP IT PRESENT

When writing literary responses, you **MUST ALWAYS** keep main verbs present.

Charlie went to night school, where he was taught by Miss Kinnian.

Charlie attends a night school, where his teacher, Miss Kinnian, instructs him on reading, punctuation, and writing.

“Flowers for Algernon” **is** a short story that was written in 1959 by the author, Daniel Keyes. (*You can have sentences like this one*)

4. “TO BE” or **NOT** “TO BE”

TAKE OUT THE “TO BE” VERBS

am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been

I don't expect you to take out ALL of them, but try your best to take out 50% of them!

She is hungry. → She craves food and hears her stomach grumble.

Charlie is chosen to be operated on. (passive) → (active) Dr. Strauss and Dr.

Nemur make a difficult decision in selecting Charlie as their test subject to operate on.

5. Subordinate (Dependent) + Independent clauses

Start a sentence with a subordinate clause (dependent clause)!

Sam was tired, but he decided to go out and play with his brother.

Although every muscle in his body screamed in pain, Sam decided to go out and play basketball with his little brother.

When _____, Subject + verb + rest of the sentence aka INDEPENDENT CLAUSE.

After Jose smashed the spider, INDEPENDENT CLAUSE.

Subordinate Conjunctions list:

After	Once	Though
Although	Provided that	Unless
As	Rather than	Until
Because	Since	When
Before	So that	Whenever
Even if	Than	Whereas
In order that	That	Wherever

You are essentially creating more interest when you lead up to what happens next. If you tell the reader exactly what you want to say right away, it lessens INTEREST. However, if you start with a description of the subject before telling the reader about WHAT the subject does/did, then you'll be hooking in the reader's interest and desire to read on.

6. ADVERB/ADJECTIVE CLAUSE + IND. CLAUSE

Joey eats pizza.

Slowly pulling the melted cheese apart, Joey deliciously eats the fresh pizza.

ADVERBS modify (or describe) **VERBS**!

Most adverbs end in “-ly” but not all adverbs do that.

YOU ARE ESSENTIALLY CREATING A CLAUSE THAT MODIFIED THE MAIN VERB BEFORE YOU WRITE THE SUBJECT + MAIN VERB.

Charlie goes to night school.

Eagerly finding his way around the city, Charlie persistently attends night school.

7. THESAURUS

WORD CHOICE MATTERS.

Go through your entire essay and find word that you use way too often.

For example, words you use more than three times in one paragraph need to be switched up! Words like “thing” or “stuff” or “good” or “bad” are NEVER ALLOWED. Find better words. Use a thesaurus. However, if you are uncertain of how to use a word, it is better to not use it. In other words, don't just use a word because it sounds fancy. You must use words correctly!

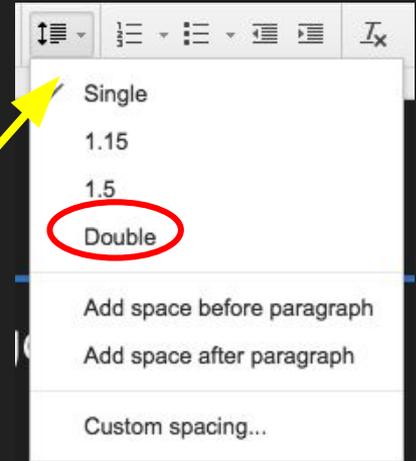
<http://www.thesaurus.com/>

FORMATTING GUIDELINES

Remember to correctly label your document on google drive.

FFAROUGH DRAFT_FirstLastName

Font: Times New Roman // Size: 12 // DOUBLE-SPACED -- You can Double space your paper by going to Format -- Line Spacing -- Double ... or you can go to the icon shown in the picture



When you write your essay, be sure to make your heading in the MLA format.

Click on this link to learn more: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>



Your title should be “center-aligned” and your text should be “left-aligned.” The only demarcation of a new paragraph should be one indentation (one click of the TAB key).

I do NOT want space space space space shenanigans or clicking enter after each sentence shenanigans.