

TEN THINGS EVERY WRITER SHOULD DO BEFORE SENDING THEIR WORK TO AN EDITOR

1.) Have a text-to-voice reader actually read your work to you. Google Docs and Microsoft Word have these options built in, but AI voices like Natural Readers is also available. Your body has a type of muscle memory when it listens to something being read--and it will normally make you cringe when you hear what needs fixed.

2.) For similar reasons, you should read you own work out loud to yourself. Even if you feel like you're a slow reader--this practice helps that and your writing skin to improve together.

3.) Repeat the above two again, but read the paragraphs out of order. Trick your brain into hearing and seeing things "from a new angle" or "in a new light," as the old phrases claim.

"DOING ALL THAT REREADING IS BORING AFTER THE FIRST TIME THROUGH THE DOCUMENT NO MATTER WHAT I DO, SOUL WRITER!" TRY THESE WHEN YOU REREAD, FRIEND...

4.) Is there anything that can be ADDED for clarification only?

5.) Is there anything that can be REMOVED completely?

6.) Is there anything that can be MOVED elsewhere?

7.) Is there a better way to SUBSTITUTE some of your scenes or word choices as you read?

8.) The most common clichés out there are called what they are--clichés. Minimize using them as a group--and avoid repeating them more than one time. So, once you find one, see how many times you rely on it. You might find a stronger way to say it in the revision or edit stage.

"OKAY, I WENT HUNTING FOR THOSE THINGS. WHAT ELSE CAN I DO THAT DOESN'T REQUIRE A LOT OF REREADING?" WELL, CONSIDER THE FIND FUNCTION (CTRL + F FOR WINDOWS, COMMAND + SPACEBAR FOR IOS)

9.) The most common brain defaults--this is a starter list, but you will find over time that you have your own. Every writer does, and as you learn to train your mind to stop relying on some of them, you might replace them with new ones over time. More often than not, writers use brain defaults as "an entry point into writing the moment" or "as a way to pick up where they left off." Therefore, they're dead words after they're mentioned ten or more times per 50,000 words written.

hair and eye color (mention

face/body parts	once per primary and secondary character-- otherwise, let it go)	all versions of start, try, help, seem
most adverbs (words ending in ly)	punctuation like emdashes, ellipses, and exclamation points	transitional words and phrases

10.) All character names / world specific vocabulary to make sure it is used correctly in context/that pronouns and verbs match up around them as they need