

Rewriting an Essay of Personal Experience

Most of writing is rewriting. When rewriting an essay where you tell a true story from your own experience, here is a checklist of what to review to improve your rough draft. I have separated these into groups. Focus on the first group on your first rewrite of the essay, the second group on the second rewrite, the third group on your third rewriting, and the last group when writing your final draft.



Review 1

- _____ The story is clearly told with no gaps.
- _____ There is enough description for the reader to picture everything.
- _____ The description is sufficiently detailed and includes some senses other than just sight.
- _____ There is dialogue.
- _____ If there is no dialogue, add some to develop character, provide humor, or emphasize conflict.
- _____ There is a good balance between narration, description, and dialogue.

Review 2

- _____ Your emotions at various points in the story are made clear through your speech, thoughts, or actions.
- _____ Your thoughts at various points are made clear.

Review 3

- _____ There are no run-on sentences.
- _____ There are no sentence fragments.
- _____ There are a few compound and/or complex sentences, as well as simple sentences.

Review 4

- _____ All capitalization is correct.
- _____ All punctuation is correct.
- _____ Pay special attention to punctuation and formatting of dialogue.
- _____ Any other grammar rules you know are followed correctly.