

Rewriting a Short Story

Most of writing is rewriting. When rewriting your short story, here is a checklist of what to review to improve your rough draft. I have separated these into two groups. Focus on the first group on your first rewrite of the story, and the second group when you're writing your final draft.



First group:

- _____ It is clear when the story takes place.
- _____ It is clear where the story takes place.
- _____ It is clear how the setting is important to the story.
- _____ The setting is well described.
- _____ Can details of sound, touch, smell, or even taste be added to the description of the setting?
- _____ There are details of description about the setting throughout the story rather than all in one place.

Second group:

- _____ The main character has a goal they pursue.
- _____ Something or someone makes it hard for the character to reach that goal (conflict).
- _____ By the end of the story, the character has either achieved their goal or failed.
- _____ All capitalization is correct.
- _____ All punctuation is correct.
- _____ Any other grammar rules you know are followed correctly.