

Rewriting a Short Story

Most of writing is rewriting. When rewriting a short story, here is a checklist of what to review to improve your rough draft. I have given you three checklists. Do the first in one rewriting session; do the second in a second rewriting session; do the third when writing your final draft.



Review 1

- _____ There is sufficient description of places.
- _____ Description of places includes not just sight but also sounds, smells, and even taste and touch if appropriate.
- _____ There is sufficient description of people.
- _____ Descriptions of people include not just their physical appearance, but speech, mannerisms, facial expressions, and actions.
- _____ There is dialogue.
- _____ Consider whether more dialogue should be added.
- _____ All dialogue is formatted and punctuated correctly.

Review 2

- _____ The paper is titled.
- _____ The introduction starts in an interesting manner (it makes the reader want to read on).
- _____ The conclusion shows how the conflict was resolved.
- _____ The conclusion shows how the main character changed.
- _____ The conclusion is interesting enough that a reader would want to read another of your stories.

Review 3

- _____ All capitalization is correct.
- _____ All punctuation is correct.
- _____ Any other grammar rules you know are followed correctly.
- _____ Include a dedication, cover, or illustrations, if you wish.