

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 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 (Narrative)

- _____ The story has a good balance of narration, description, and dialogue.
- _____ Each event in the narrative leads to the next (i.e., the narrative makes sense).
- _____ There is sufficient description for the reader to be able to visualize characters and settings.
- _____ There is some dialogue that helps develop characters or forward the story-line.
- _____ The chosen point of view is consistent throughout the story.

Review 2 (Word Choice)

- _____ All words are vivid and concrete whenever possible.
- _____ All adjectives are necessary.
- _____ All adverbs are necessary.
- _____ Description addresses more senses than just sight (hearing, touch, smell, taste).

Review 3 (Conflict and Symbolism)

- _____ There is strong conflict in the story.
- _____ If possible, there are multiple conflicts.
- _____ The conflict(s) increase in intensity as the story progresses (until the climax).
- _____ It is clear what the main character wants.
- _____ There is a strong force in opposition to the main character.

- _____ The main character overcomes (or at least tries to overcome) the obstacle through their own efforts.
- _____ If possible, internal conflict is present.
- _____ If there is symbolism, it's not too heavy-handed.

Review 4 (Final Draft)

- _____ The paper is titled.
- _____ All capitalization is correct.
- _____ All punctuation is correct.
- _____ Any other grammar rules you know are followed correctly.