

# APAC ALMANAC

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## ESSAY TROUBLESHOOTING: A QUICK GUIDE TO EDITING YOUR FINAL PAPERS

BY: REVA

You finally got all your thoughts on paper—so what's next? The editing process for a final draft can be tedious, especially if you're on a time crunch to hand in your paper in the upcoming weeks. Here are some tips from the APAC on how to revise your paper into final draft worthy material.

1. **Congratulate yourself!** No really, pat yourself on the back. One of the hardest parts of writing is translating your thoughts into a document. You've built the foundation for your next steps!
2. **Let it rest.** It's best not to write and edit an essay all in one go. Try to take a break from writing it, and then come back and give the full draft a reread. With a fresh set of eyes, you can pick up on more concerns and areas you can improve!
3. **Identify the main areas of your writing that you want to improve.** Use the reread of the entire first draft as a starting point. Some common areas people want to improve are:
4. **Does your essay fall short of the minimum length?** Instead of increasing the margin size or adding unnecessary words (ex. turning "because" into "due to the additional information provided by..."), try adding more evidence and ideas into your work that support your thesis. Professors aren't just looking for a lot of words in your paper, but well-chosen words. This means you need to avoid filler like the plague! Adding an extra sentence or

two of analysis of quotations and evidence can bring your paper (and word count) to the next level.

5. **Or is your essay too long?** It can feel like a loss to hit that backspace bar, but remember to go through and edit your essay for concision. Are there sentences that sound similar to each other? Do you frequently use words like "very," "really," "just," etc.? These are filler words and phrases that don't add meaning and new understanding to your paper. Cutting these out will make your writing flow better and appear more professional.
6. **Do your thoughts appear to jump around?** Does everything make sense when you put it together and do you have clearly defined body paragraphs, an introduction, and a conclusion? If not, you may be struggling with organization. Start by creating a loose outline of what you want to argue, and then look at the main idea of each paragraph. If there are parts of your essay that don't relate to either of these, they are off-topic and should be revised to support your claims or removed. Each body paragraph should also introduce evidence, give an analysis of the evidence, and conclude with a sentence to support the main idea of the paragraph. If your writing feels choppy, you may be missing a component of these steps.
7. **After making your changes, reread your paper.** Make sure to read it out loud this time—try standing up like you're presenting it! Reading your paper out loud helps you pick up on awkward sentences and grammatical errors since you can audibly hear them.
8. **Get a second opinion!** Make an appointment at the Academic Center! Another set of eyes can both pick up errors you struggle to catch and give feedback on things they would like to see in your paper. Good luck!

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## MENTAL HEALTH & FINALS

Feel like you can barely get through finals? Are you struggling to find time to write those final essays and study for a exam in the same course? Well, you're not alone. While it's easy to dwell on those upcoming finals, it's essential to also prioritize your mental health. Take the first step by coming to the Academic Center. We're here to help you with every step of your academic success, from scheduling to tutoring appointments. Make sure to set time aside for yourself and avoid pulling all-nighters! You got this.

## STRUGGLING WITH FINALS?

Finals are here! Do you feel like you don't know where to start? Did you forget a lot of material that's going to be on the exam? Well, it's not too late! Drop by your instructor's office hours or the Academic Center and we can work with you with whatever step you're at. We're open 9 am—6 pm on Mondays—Thursdays, including finals week!

## So, should I apply to be a tutor?

BY KATELYN & ERIN

The Academic Center is hiring for the fall semester! We're hiring for all subjects, and the work schedule is based on your availability. Now, exactly what *is* the role of a tutor? It's sometimes confused with being a teacher, and this misconception can make it intimidating to apply. But, it's actually quite different.

The basic foundation of each job varies a lot. Teaching focuses more on building lesson plans to teach students specific subjects throughout a semester. Tutoring, however, focuses more on skills.

For instance, I usually talk about skills I learned in one of my classes, and when I tutor in it, I usually suggest some of the skills I learned. Being a tutor is also about being able to give suggestions as another *student*—not as a professor. There's more of a focus on discussing the material differently, so it's more understandable. Overall, it's about helping other students as someone who's also taking classes.

Have any other questions about being a tutor? Stop by!

## Learning to Learn

Learning to learn—what exactly does that mean? It seems that people can easily lose track of how to learn properly in anything they can do. Whether it be learning an academic subject or a hobby, there are certain ways to learn that help. While everyone has their own ways to learn, it's important to be able to develop an attitude that one can learn and is curious to do so.

When it comes to learning a hobby, it's important to have a passion for it, and a passion that can really last. Passion is the driving force behind why so many people want to do things, especially for the fun of it. After all, it is what makes life interesting sometimes!

For example, let's say you want to draw, but you have no concept of drawing fundamentals. Despite this, you still try to draw a picture of your favorite character, because it's the passion that overcomes the fear of it being bad! That passion can be the driving force for improvement, even if it means failing at it many times.

The Academic Center tutors can help you develop the habits and mindset that will help you find your passion for learning, get on track to succeed in college, and make your education work for you.