SURPRISES Editing method

Say in head

Rehearse in head to listen to what immediately stands out, which sentences are you happy with? Unhappy with? Mark anything you think needs to change.

Under breath - mumble

In a muttered voice, begin to FEEL how the piece fits together- are your sentences varied enough? Are your sentence lengths varied enough?

Read aloud

Are there unplanned repetitions? Are your tenses accurate? Does it need anything adding in?

Punctuation power

Look at your use of punctuation, is it accurate? Is it varied enough? Can you show that you can use punctuation to help clarify meaning?

Read the openers

Is there enough variety in your openers? Look at your linking sentences between paragraphs, are they strong enough? Is there flow?

Improve worrisome words

Improve vocabulary by checking the quality of your word choices, particularly verbs, adjectives and adverbs. Can you expand your noun phrases?

Say in head or aloud

Read it through to listen to how it is now sounding? Have you done enough? Has it improved? What more needs to be done? Could you re-order some sentences to improve the overall effect?

Emotive and figurative check

Look at your sentence choices, are there similes, metaphors? What about personification and pathetic fallacy? Have you used powerful verbs and adjectives? Is there reason to use hyperbole?

Share with a friend

Together can you improve your work in any other ways? Does it feel finished?

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