

Further comments on editing

You do not need to become a good writer, but you can and should try to become a good editor

Tasks during Revision

- reorganize information
 - often move entire paragraphs! 畫蛇添足
- deepen or extend analysis huàshétiānzú
- narrow focus, scope
- add data and supporting information
- adjust details of argument
- eliminate repetition and/or restating the obvious
- allocate space to highlight or diminish points

Structural edits

- Does the structure flow?
 - Try to move all measured quantities to Results
 - Are sections and subsections focused?
- Missing logic
 - Any data need to be added
- Can readers see what is coming next
 - Add summary paragraphs at beginning of sections
 - Add intro paragraphs in subsections
 - (try to avoid too much repetition)

Figures/Tables

- Are Figures clear? Readable?
 - Large fonts, thick lines
 - Keep simple
- Are Tables useable?
- Are they located where you want them?
 - Usually finalize at end, but it annoys co-authors to see them in random places

Language editing

- Paragraphs and sentences:
 - look for opportunities for parallelism
- Sentences: underlining! forces you to read to focus on specific topics
 - Subject/verb go together?
 - Clauses: more than one in a sentence?
 - Limit “and”
 - No “and” at beginning of sentences
 - Comparisons: quantified?
- Read sentences out loud! If the sentence sounds awkward, it probably reads awkward

Editing advice (repeated)

- Read the entire piece once or even twice before you comment, so as to develop a clear sense of the purpose and audience and scope.
- Focus first on the big picture content and organization, and then on the particulars.
- Be honest but remain diplomatic and supportive.
 - Lead with the positive
 - Edit as you would wish to be edited
- Explain why, if pointing out that something is confusing or doesn't work.
- Make specific recommendations for improvement.

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Possible Tasks while Editing

- correct any remaining weaknesses in organization
- improve coherence / transitions
- drop unnecessary information and eliminate “wordiness”
 - “when in doubt, cut it out” – paragraphs, sentences, words
 - goal is more succinct without losing breadth, depth, or complexity
- create “audience appeal”
- improve sentence structure and correct grammar
- improve vocabulary and word choice
- finalize graphics (tables, figures, pictures, etc.)
- provide or adjust visual aspects of text (title, headings, layout, font, etc.)

Bù Zhī Ròu Wèi-不知肉味

Tools for editing

- Use Grammarly!
 - Free version works well
 - Overleaf and MS underlines problems, so fix them!
- Use ChatGPT or similar tools for translation
 - Write in Chinese first, if English is a problem
 - If you use ChatGPT to create text (not just translation), you must check it and credit ChatGPT in the acknowledgements
- Your classmates!
 - You become a better writer by editing other people's work
 - My collaborators always see science with a different perspective and identify unclear writing/logic