

EDITING PACKET

Name: _____

A good opening sentence introduces the hero, hints at the action, and/or asks a question. It can start at the beginning, middle, or end of the story. Examples:

The dorm door shut. Alone at last in the dark after a harrowing 24-hour journey, I gulped, realizing I had made it to China.

My hunger outweighed my fear of being ridiculous. "Chicken, noodle, vegetable," I announced to the baffled man behind the cafeteria counter.

My sworn enemy in life has always been boredom.

1. Please write here the first sentence (or two) of your story:

2. Now write a different first sentence (or two) for your story:

3. Try one more time:

4. Please read these sentences to 3 people. Which one do they like best? What do they think the story is about?

Name	Best?	What do I think it's about?

A good **closing sentence** includes some action, offers a lesson, and/or leaves the reader wanting just a little more. Examples:

Nobody I knew had ever just picked up and moved 8,000 miles away; as I gazed at my new friends through the hot pot steam, I felt invincible.

I woke up realizing I had been dreaming in Chinese. I smiled and wondered what new adventure I would have today in my strange adopted land.

I had slain boredom and was thirsty for even more adventure.

1. Please write here the last sentence (or two) of your story:

2. Now write a different last sentence (or two) for your story:

3. Try one more time:

4. Please read these sentences to 3 people (different people from the first sentence exercise). Which one do they like best? What do they think the story is about?

Name	Best?	What do I think it's about?

Once you've chosen your opening and closing sentences, look at the middle. How do you want to arrange your story? **Choose at least two** of the following activities to edit your paper (doing more will make your paper better overall and will earn you some bonus points).

Suggestions:

1. Try breaking up large descriptions. For example, if your Ordinary World description is one long page, try mixing in parts of your Character Study. Or, you can take parts of your Character Study and add them into the How My Hero Found His/Her Quest section. Or you can add parts of the Friends and Enemies section to the Challenges.

2. GO FOR IT EDITING STRATEGY:

- Get a pair of scissors
- Cut your paper into individual paragraphs
- Literally shuffle the paragraphs around until they're in the order you want them in
- Get a glue stick or tape
- Glue or tape the paragraphs into their final order.

3. Please write down here the first word of each paragraph in your story:

If they are all the same, that is a problem. Change it up! Check to make sure your transitions flow.

4. Read the whole thing aloud to yourself, quietly. Put a star at any spot where you stumble or aren't sure what you wrote. Come back to those spots and try re-writing them.

Yay! You are done editing! Come get a stamp from Miss Wagner and move on to proofreading.

You are unstoppable, like a shark with a laser beam on its head!

Proofreading 2: Quotations

I am sitting here in tutorial talking with Ashley.

"Ashley, I've heard other people calling you Saechao. Is that what you'd like to be called?" I questioned her.

She replied, "Sure, that would be fine."

I was happy. "How's your story coming along?"

Then we talked about writing.

"This is the most meta thing I've ever written," I thought to myself.

"Ha, Miss Wagner is being bizarre," thought Ashley.

The above is a **dialogue**. That's when two or more people are talking in your writing (it could even be one person talking to him or herself).

Dialogue is pretty simple, actually, but it's easy to mess up if you're not paying attention.

1. Look at the above dialogue. Circle all periods, commas, and question marks.

2. What do you notice? Where do the commas go? (There is a right answer to this question).

Besides the punctuation, there are also dialogue markers or **tags**. Tags just tell us who is speaking. The most common ones are "said" and "asked." It is totally fine to use these, but if you have a long stretch of dialogue you might want to break it up and use words like replied, thought, wondered, yelled, whispered, squeaked, stammered, etc. Sometimes you don't even have to use a tag, if it's still clear who is speaking.

3. Find any places in your story where characters are talking to each other. Put a star by them.

4. Check to make sure your dialogue has:

- All punctuation (commas, periods, ?s, !s) **INSIDE** the right quote.
- A comma **inside** the right quote instead of a period if you have a tag after it: "You're a great worker," I said.
- A comma **before** the left quote after a tag: He said, "I really am!"

Holy smokes, you're done with proofreading!

ONE LAST THING: Sharing!

SHARING

What, you thought you'd get away with not sharing your wonderful story? No way! You've worked really hard on this! It deserves an audience!

1. Share your story with two other people. It can be anyone: a classmate, a friend, a brother or sister, parents, grandparents, another teacher, anyone. You may choose to read it out loud to them, or they may read it quietly to themselves.

2. Please ask your two people the following questions. They may write their own answers, or you may listen to their responses and write the answers down yourself:

Person #1 Name: _____

What impressed you the most about this piece?

Do you have any questions about it?

Person #2 Name: _____

What impressed you the most about this piece?

Do you have any questions about it?
