



# Asking for Feedback

## A-State Online Writing Center

### Why ask for feedback on writing?

When we're writing, it's often a solitary process where you can easily become mired in one train of thought. You may even feel stuck from the beginning or at any point in the writing process and need an outside voice to generate new ideas, which is normal and typically quite helpful. Asking for constructive feedback enables writers to view their writing process from a different perspective, allowing for the opportunity to see room for improvement.

### How can you ask for feedback?

Asking the right questions can make the difference in what sort of feedback you receive, particularly if you're searching for feedback on specific components of your writing. In addition, it's also best to ask yourself about areas you feel need improvement, especially if you have historically needed assistance in said areas (e.g., organization, citations, grammar/syntax).

### Helpful questions can include:

- 1) Does this reflect assignment expectations?
- 2) Does the paper seem organized and cohesive?
- 3) Is my thesis statement strong and well-supported throughout the paper?
- 4) Can you follow my train of thought? Do I provide relevant, comprehensive topic sentences in each paragraph and transition sentences between points?
- 5) Do my analysis points make logical sense? Are they well-supported by appropriate resources?
- 6) Are there any spelling errors, typos, or punctuation issues?
- 7) Are there ways to improve my writing style to make it sharper?
- 8) Did I cite my resources correctly?

## **Who can provide helpful feedback?**

Respected professors, teaching or graduate assistants, and peers are excellent channels to turn to for constructive feedback on your writing, especially those who are invested in the same assignment. Moreover, be sure to take advantage of our Online Writing Center, as tutors can assist with any stage of your writing process from brainstorming to final proofreading, as well as formatting, grammar and syntax, and citations.

Furthermore, if you find that you are provided with edits more so than suggestions, you should seek a different opinion. Your unique voice should shine through, so don't try to copy or emulate someone assisting you; this can result in plagiarism.

## **How should you process feedback?**

Receiving feedback can be difficult, particularly if numerous revisions are recommended. However, take them in stride and reframe them as A) suggestions that you can consider and bench if you don't ultimately agree; and B) ways to enhance your own writing more so than red marks that show how far you are from the finish line. You're more capable than you think, and you've got this. It's meant to be helpful, so try to remain neutral.

Further, ask questions if you don't fully grasp their suggestions. They can explain why they made certain suggestions so you can understand how you can potentially improve. Once again, you don't have to alter your writing based on every suggestion; it's outside advice meant to show various angles you may have initially missed.

Finally, try to prioritize the feedback. Revising can be a lengthy process. By taking all of the suggestions and prioritizing them by their impact, you will get much more done in one sitting. Saving the 'local' errors such as grammar for the end may help since you may change those sentences.

## Sources & More Resources

- <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/getting-feedback/>
- <https://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/writingprocess/feedback>
- <https://www.bustle.com/p/12-tips-for-getting-feedback-on-your-writing-43119>