

Step 1	<p>Using a BLUE marker/crayon, underline the first sentence in your paper. Using a YELLOW marker/crayon, underline the second sentence. Third sentence BLUE, fourth sentence YELLOW. Repeat the pattern for every sentence in the paper.</p> <p><i>Once you have completed the underlining, take a look at the paper. If you have one sentence that is numerous lines in length, could it be a run-on? If you have many short sentences, could you combine some together?</i></p>
Step 2	<p>Using a GREEN marker/crayon, circle the first word of each sentence.</p> <p><i>Do you have a capital letter at the beginning of each sentence?</i></p>
Step 3	<p>Using a REGULAR pencil, list out the first three words of each sentence in the margin of your paper.</p> <p><i>How many sentences start with the same word(s) or nearly the same word(s)? Generally, you should not have more than three sentences starting with the same word. NO more than two sentences should start with the word "I." NO sentences should start with a conjunction (and, but, or,so).</i></p>
Step 4	<p>Using a REGULAR pencil, number the sentences in order. There should be a number in front of every green circle.</p> <p><i>How many sentences do you have? A good paper will have 25 or more sentences spread out over four or five paragraphs. If you have less, consider adding descriptive sentences to make the paper more visual for your reader.</i></p>
Step 5	<p>Using an ORANGE marker/crayon, put a triangle around the ending punctuation of each sentence.</p> <p><i>Do you have punctuation at the end of each sentence? Did you remember not to use more than one end mark? For example, "I thought it was awesome!!!" is unacceptable.</i></p>
Step 6	<p>Using a RED marker/crayon, cross every time you used the word "like" unless it is being used as a simile. For example: He moved like a football player trying to do ballet.</p> <p><i>You may not use the word "like" unless it is in a simile. You will need to revise sentences where you crossed out the word "like" and replace it with a stronger verb.</i></p>
Step 7	<p>Using a PURPLE marker/crayon, put a rectangle around three nouns, three verbs, and three adjectives that you can improve by using a thesaurus.</p>
Step 8	<p>Using a BROWN marker/crayon, put an asterisk (*) in three places where you could put more information (either and adverb or a prepositional phrase).</p>
Step 9	<p>Using a BLUE marker/crayon, put a triangle around FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so</p> <p><i>Place your finger on the orange triangle; if there are two complete sentences on both sides of the coordinating conjunction, you need a comma before the conjunction.</i></p>
Step 10	<p>Highlight all is, was, be, being, been, are, were, am</p> <p><i>Count to be verbs and divide by two. Rewrite ½ of the sentences without using to be verbs.</i></p>
Step 11	<p>Create your second draft using the improvements from this activity.</p>