

Proof Reading Techniques

When?

- Allow enough time from submission date to read through text several times.
- Think about proof reading smaller **chunks** of text as writing develops rather than waiting until the end, e.g. chapters, sections, arguments etc.
- Be in control and proactive rather than reactive.

How?

Read through text several times to identify different types of error:-

CORPSE method to check your work as follows:-

C/Capitals O/Omissions R/Repetition P/Punctuation S/Spelling E/English

COPSE Method

Content

 Clear, relevant, accurate, answered "unbundled" question, evidenced, meet marking criteria requirements?

Organisation

Is there an introduction, main section and conclusion and do they include the right material?
 Does the argument flow, are topics/important points kept together?

Punctuation

 Keep sentences short and succinct. Check for capital letters, full stops, commas, speech marks, apostrophes etc. Have a simple checklist of rules if necessary.

Spelling

 Start from the end/bottom of the document and read each word for accuracy; reference dictionary, thesaurus and beware American version of spelling word. Also look for homophones eg there, their, they're.



Tools and resources to utilise - not one suits all

Text to speech	TextHelp read&write (scan option)
(read aloud)	Claroread (scan option) (same plant these have reader assistance support of
	(remember these have reader assistance support eg pointer/focus/coloured text and background options)
	. , ,
	 Use Windows accessibility feature (Control Panel – text to speech option)
	 Free Apps eg iSpeech, NaturalReader Text, Voice Dream Reader, Speak it!
	 Record text and listen (use digital Dictaphone, smart phone, tablet etc)
	Ask someone else to read aloud
Organisation	 Coloured highlighters to code similar ideas
	Post-it notes to code similar ideas
	Number sections, ideas
	 Ensure planning has been done/effective eg use diagrams, mind mapping, lists, linear, tables etc
	Cut and paste key ideas/sections to improve flow of ideas
Spelling	 Read&Write has a dyslexic specific spell check facility, a homophone checker, powerful dictionary and prediction option – these all give/read aloud meanings
(poss image clips)	Be careful of MS Word spellcheck (American spellings)
	Use internet eg dictionary.com
	 Use thesaurus options (Word – Shift+F7)
	Free Apps
	 Devise personalised word lists or common errors (keep in a book, on smart phones, tablet, computer or recorded etc)
Reading	 Read&Write - pointer/focus/coloured text and background options
	Use coloured overlays
	 Opti-colour USB pen can change text colour and background colour
	 Windows accessibility function: can read aloud, magnify text, change contrast, screen/background colour etc
	Free Apps
	Print on coloured paper
	 Improve readability eg large text, double line spacing, different coloured text and background
	Use a pointer or ruler