

Sample 1:

The next most important elements are the constant renovations and edits that a house and a piece of writing must go through to get to the best that it can be. There is no limit to the amount of editing that can be done to piece, so long as ample time is given in between to reset your mind. I used to go back to a draft and edit all at once, never really looking at it in much detail again after that. My edits were surface level, focusing solely on punctuation and conventions. Yet, these edits and revisions were insufficient, barely improving the piece beyond the superficial. No matter how many times I would look for those errors, I never got to the real depth of the piece. Instead of this constant repetition of the same writing over and over, I now find it easiest to wait a few days between editing and revising. This mental reset allows you to almost forget the details of what you had written and see it with new eyes. A fresh perspective enables you to see the mistakes that you made: often times what we think in our head and what we write on the page are different. Allowing multiple drafts that go in depth, past the superficial elements of writing, helps prevent the symptoms of poor writing. Poor writing, like a gutted house, retains its nice facade but is empty and lacks meaning and depth inside.

Sample 2:

A paper without thought is useless. We've all tried to desperately cram in as much meaning as possible within a crunched deadline, (dramatically more so during a timed writing) but to no avail. It comes out sounding forced, cliché, and like you are just trying a bit too hard. Writing thoughtfully and insightfully is key, as it enhances all aspects of your writing and actually makes you sound intelligent. How you write is just as important as what you are writing about. A beautifully-written essay on a dull subject, such as the intricacies of knitting technique, is just as engaging as a poorly-written piece on a thought-provoking idea. Choose topics that are interesting for you to write about, and beautiful writing will flow freely. I learned this the hard way during many timed writings, forcing myself to come up with a compelling argument of the top of my head and trying harder still to write something well about it. I had to hone my quick-thinking ability, as well as comprehending and remembering key points for analysis. That is also why a strong thesis or claim should be the priority in everything you write, without them you are left with weak evidence and a poor analysis by default, which leaves you with nothing to work with. Getting stuck in this rut is definitely frustrating, but being able to escape from it and enhance your quotes, analyses, and warrants changes your entire paper for the better. Sometimes this will mean rewriting, revising, and rewriting again. But the feeling of finally getting something down on paper that you are proud of is worth it. At the end of the day, do not write something just for the sake of points or turn something in that does not have any meaning. Writing is still an art form, one that should be respected by commanding language in a way that is insightful and meaningful.

