



# WRITE LIKE A WRITER

*A creative's writing course*

LESSON 6: HOW EDITORS EDIT

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In week two, we found and developed your unique voice. How did it feel? Well, I know it was probably painful but I hope that you feel more confident in your writing style. Now that your style is officially found, I want to teach you how editors edit their content.

Editors, more than anyone else, are painfully aware of how hard it is to go from having a blank page to one filled with witty words and snappy sentences. They know that that is the hard part and because they know that, they treat documents they edit as you would a raw, unedited picture. The hard part is in the taking and creating something visually beautiful. The editing is just refining. Please think of this as you are editing your own words. Don't be judgmental, be nurturing. We don't judge other photographers on their unedited pictures or DIY-ers on their newly found project, so just be gentle with yourself.

Editors read an article at least three times. Yes, you heard that: three. The first time they go through and make no grammatical corrections. When you read it through the first time you start making marks without knowing what is coming. So just use the first time as a way to get to know the article.

The second time through, look for structural problems like paragraphs in the right place or unnecessary sentences or sentences that you need to clarify. This is where you will tighten up your writing by removing words and sentences you don't need.

The third time through is where you will look for punctuation. Remember what we talked about in lesson 2? Well, use that newfound grammatical knowledge to make sure that your words mean what you want them to mean.

Always remember that writing, just like anything else that is creative, is like a muscle. The more you use it, the more you will have. When I first started blogging, I felt like I needed to save my good ideas because, well, I was afraid that was all I had. That is silly. Have you read the quote on Pinterest? I think it goes, "You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have." Believe it and live it.

Remember those two blog posts you wrote in week one? Now is the time to pull them out and read them. I want you to edit them like an editor. Read through them both once without making any marks. Now write three to five words that describe your writing style used in these two blog posts. Write three positive comments about your posts. What did you notice? In my experience, after I let something I write settle, when I come back, I find that it is actually pretty good. Sure, the post can always use some editing--then again, we wouldn't throw our RAW files out for the world to see, but the beginning picture is good. Allow yourself to realize that you are a great writer. Read through it a second time looking at structure and a third time looking at punctuation and grammar. And looky there, you already have two blog posts ready to go. Win!

**Thank you so much for taking this course. Writing is an amazing tool that really brings you to your readers and your readers to you. My hope is that this course has armed you with the tools you need to write with confidence and to write like a writer.**