

Proofreading Pitfalls Handout for Self-Editing

Purpose - This short paragraph makes a good handout, or discussion-started on the overhead some time before the final drafts of a paper are due.

Description - This is not so much an exercise as it is a demonstration for good proofreading skills. I sometimes cut-up and distribute this paragraph to the class, or you could just project it if you have a tech room.

Procedure - Show/distribute the following for discussion:

Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at an Elingsh uinervtisy, it deosn't myyaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer is at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. this is bcuseae we do not raed ervey lteter.

Additional Information - You might begin a late-draft workshop with this sample, having students work on their own drafts. Or, include this as part of a 'Grammar Day' class for which students bring a draft of their current paper to work on.