

# Social Studies 8 – Editing Written Work

When analyzing historic people, events or developments you need to be clear and precise. Here is a list of things to keep in mind when revising your writing:

1) Be specific:

Use evidence to support your opinion or main point.

e.g. As Source B says, Luke was really Darth Vader's son. Therefore it is likely that....

2) Be critical!

If there is not a strong connection between pieces of evidence point this out.

E.g. Source E is an engraving of a Mayan emperor, however the source does not make it clear whether it was found at the temple or elsewhere. Therefore it does not prove that...

3) Use quotation marks when using a direct quote

e.g. As source A, a copy of the screenplay for *The Empire Strikes Back*, says "I am your father."

4) Avoid using "I think..." , "In my opinion..." etc

These expressions can make you sound as if you are not confident in what you are saying. Remove them.

5) The meaning of pronouns should be clear.

E.g. When they found it they thought that it may have been a recent murder.  
Who is "they"? What is "it"?

Avoid using pronouns in your opening sentence.

Example: "When they found it, they thought it was a recent murder."

6) Include a brief introduction to your topic.

Give some background to what you are discussing.

7) Don't start with because

When you start a sentence with because you are often missing the first half of your sentence.

\*\*\*Remember, someone should be able to read what you wrote, not know the question, and still know what you are discussing!

8) Give context – Be specific

Identify and use specific references to what you are talking about.

Example: “Back then...” - Too vague

“In the early 800s...” - Better!!!

## The editing checklist:

	Observed / Work on (comment)
Use of evidence. Evidence is used to support the points. The connection between the evidence and the point is made clear.	
Be critical. If the evidence does not support the point, admit it.	
Use of quotation marks.	
First person not used. (I think, In my opinion, I believe, etc)	
Clear pronoun meaning. (It, they, she, etc. – the meaning should be clear)	
Brief introduction included. Provide some background to your topic. A few sentences.	
Because No sentences start with because.	
Spelling Especially proper nouns as they are the most obvious.	
Grammar	