



## Teaching Oral Reading as a Revising and Editing Technique

**Note to Teachers:** When introducing this process, it is best to carve out time to guide students through the steps as a whole class and repeat these steps together for several assignments in a row. This will provide structure and accountability for students and ease the management process for teachers. Oral reading typically takes about five minutes. It can be done at the end of class before writing is submitted, or, teachers may choose to hold writing until the next day and do it at the beginning of class when students are less tired and can read their work with a “fresh set of eyes.” It is recommended that you include oral reading in your routine *every time* students submit Type Three, Four, or Five writing in order to build good habits and improve the quality of work.

### Instructions for Students:

1. Read your work out loud to yourself in a one-foot voice (not a whisper). Reading aloud has several benefits:
  - It slows you down, so you are more likely to catch your mistakes.
  - It allows you to hear what your writing will sound like to another reader, so you may notice words or phrases that don’t sound right.
  - Your ears will hear what your eyes don’t see.
  - It proves to me that you’re doing it!
2. As you read, use a colored pen, highlighter, or your computer mouse to track your place in the text. If you notice something that doesn’t sound right or you see a mistake, use color to mark the spot. You might use a check mark if working with paper and pencil or the highlight tool if you are using a word processor or computer.
  - Even though you might want to, *this is not the time to fix your mistakes*. If you keep “stopping and fixing,” you will interrupt your reading and have trouble really hearing what your writing sounds like. It’s important to read your writing from start to finish at least once—without stopping—before you make any fixes. Remember, just make a check or a simple mark that will remind you where the fixes are when you come back to them later.
3. Once you have read your work from start to finish and marked all the areas that need fixing, go back and make any necessary corrections, clarifications, or additions. You may need to read each section again to remember the mistake.
  - I love to see all the ways you’ve made your writing better! If using paper and pencil, all fixes should be marked in a different color. If using a computer, use Track Changes or a similar tool that will highlight the improvements you’ve made.
4. After you’ve completed these steps, I may ask you to share with your classmates some of the ways you improved your work. This is a great way for us to learn from each other and for me to recognize the work you’ve done to revise your writing.