

Editing (Designed for Perfection) Practice Activities

Garlic Mustard

A white tail deer moves gracefully through the dense forest. Seeds picked up from a weedy patch of garlic mustard along the road cling to his legs. While he grazes deep in the forest, the seeds drop off into fertile soil and take root. Due to the introduction of garlic mustard, the woodlands' delicate ecosystem begins to shift.

Native to Europe, garlic mustard is an invasive species that expands rapidly over natural woodland areas. Seeds can be spread by animals, unknowing hikers, and even road maintenance equipment. This aggressive weed can choke out native plant life and endanger tree regeneration. The presence of garlic mustard also results in changes in soil composition. Because of its hardiness and seeds that germinate easily, garlic mustard may quickly dominate the forest floor. The outcome is dramatic. Robbing sunlight, moisture, nutrients and soil, this greedy invader poses a serious threat to native plants and animals in forest communities. In the U.S., garlic mustard is now found in 30 states.

Editing Activity Part 1

First, read the passage, "Miracle on the Hudson"

Next, write a short 1 – page essay about a trip you have taken, your thoughts on the events of this passage, or about another miraculous event.

Finally, revise your short essay to make it the best it possibly can be.

Editing is the process authors use to closely proofread and correct any errors they find in their work.

Skillful authors edit their work by:

- Scanning and fixing any **grammatical errors** in sentence structure and phrasing.
- Checking for **capitalization and punctuation** mistakes.
- Locating and changing any **spelling errors**.

Use the computer to check for spelling and grammatical mistakes **BUT** also read through your writing line by line to check for errors the computer missed.

To help in the editing process, **read your work aloud** and listen for sentence structure and phrasing problems.

You can also ask a family member or trusted friend to read your work and give you possible suggestions on improvement.

It is crucial to edit your work. Readers may stop reading your work if they find simple writing errors.

Editing Activity Part 2

Now that you've completed your initial and revised draft, it is time to edit what you have written. Go back through your revised draft and begin to look for areas that need editing. To help you in this process, think about using the following editing

tools to check for grammatical, spelling, and capitalization, and punctuation:

- Pencil
- Marker
- Dictionary
- Grammar handbooks
- Grammar websites
- Dictionary websites
- Computer spell/grammar check

Finally, when you feel comfortable with your work, share it with a family member or trusted friend. Ask this person to help you edit your writing by reading your draft looking for any errors you may have made.