

Read Paper Aloud To a Colleague

When I was a graduate student, Dr. Victor Howard asked me to help him proof read a forthcoming book he had written. Although he was a distinguished professor with multiple publications, he did not trust himself to do the proof reading himself. Nor did he trust any one person to do the proof reading for him.

Dr. Howard and I would meet in a Morrill Hall conference room at Michigan State University. We each had a copy of the page proofs for his book. He read the book to me and I followed along silently. If either of noticed an error, Dr. Howard would make the necessary correction.



Assignment

1. Make two copies of the final version of your manuscript.
2. Meet with a colleague in the class or some other trusted friend.
3. Read your paper to him/her.
4. Note appropriate corrections.
Please note: When I worked with Dr. Howard, his manuscript was already in page proofs and we were simply copy editing. At this point in the research process, don't be satisfied with copy editing. Encourage your colleague to point out any passages that are confusing or questions she/he has about your paper.
5. Repeat the process by allowing your colleague to read his/her paper to you.
6. Write a brief reflection on the process. Please include information on how your colleague helped you. How were you able to help your colleague? Be sure to include your colleague's name in your reflection.
7. Attach your reflection to this worksheet and submit it to me.

