

Correct Word Usage Tips

Some simple tips and tricks can help you clean up word usage and improve your paper's clarity.

Where to start:

- ✓ Never use a word that you don't fully understand.
Instead, use words common to your personal vocabulary.
- ✓ Read your paper aloud in order to catch mistakes.
The average double-spaced paper takes 2 minutes to read aloud.
Reading aloud can also uncover sentence structure and grammatical errors.
- ✓ Ask a friend or fellow student to read your paper.
Often times, we miss our own mistakes.
A second set of eyes can often catch oversights.
- ✓ Stop by the Academic Success Center and ask for a "proof-reading" session.
Our tutors are always ready to assist in any area of writing.

When in doubt, consult a dictionary.

- ✓ Check your understanding of the word.
Never build your vocabulary using a thesaurus.
- ✓ Dictionaries include several possible definitions of a given word.
Make sure you fully understand the word before you use it.
- ✓ Synonyms and antonyms are often provided.
Double-check these suggestions before you use them!
- ✓ Use a trusted source, such as Merriam Webster's free website.
<http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

