

The “Editing Machine”

This is a fun way to get students to help each other edit their pieces. You'll need to form groups of 3 or more ahead of time and have a timer handy. All students need to have a finished piece of writing—preferably the same assignment.

1. Form groups and assign roles:
 - Capitalization
 - Punctuation
 - Format—neatness (checks indents, margins, and layout)
 - Spelling
2. You may choose to assign a color to each role and have them make their corrections with their assigned color pen or pencil.
3. Explain the task and review norms. Students are to only make corrections for their assigned role and are not to give comments about the writing during the editing machine.
4. Set timer for an amount of time that will work with the length of the assignment (this will vary from 1-5 minutes or so).
5. Have students begin with a single paper in front of each “editor”.
6. Tell the students to start the machine. When the timer goes off, the students pass papers to their right and repeat the process until each paper in the group runs through every editor in the machine.
7. If students are going to publish these pieces, you may choose to collect them after the “machine” is complete and offer a final edit. For spelling errors, simply write the misspelled words on a Post-it and make students find them and fix them. For other kinds of errors, use the same editing marks and colors that were assigned to the editing machine.



Capitalization

King Henry

Punctuation

! , ?

Spelling

~~moniy~~ for money

Format—Neatness

Check margins, indents, and layouts

I went to the store to buy some groceries for my mom. She said to get bread, milk, and eggs. When I got there, I found out I only had enough money for bread and milk. So, with the money left over I bought a candy bar for me. Boy, was Mom mad!

Capitalization

King Henry

Punctuation

! , ; " ?

Spelling

~~moniy~~ for money

Format—Neatness

Check margins, indents, and layouts

I went to the store to buy some groceries for my mom. She said to get bread, milk, and eggs. When I got there, I found out I only had enough money for bread and milk. So, with the money left over I bought a candy bar for me. Boy, was Mom mad!