

## DRAFTING

Hand in a draft which is your **BEST** attempt to meet all expectations of the task.

If you hand in unfinished work, feedback will tell you to do a bunch of stuff you already knew.

**READ ALOUD > rewrite > PEER CONFERENCE > rewrite > FAMILY CONFERENCE > repeat**

The draft you hand in is **not your first attempt**. It's the product of several attempts to improve.

The final piece should be a product of the feedback you receive and your own care and attention.

You alone are responsible for the quality of your work: proofread carefully.

## INCORRECT

DO NOT: start on night before deadline / write half formed ideas in a rush / expect teacher to edit

## CORRECT

Be your own harshest critic! You must reflect on your own writing and edit / refine until it's perfect.

Look at the list below. I made a note of just some of the decisions / observations I made when editing **one** paragraph over **five** drafts. I have been writing academically and professionally for nearly 20 years. I still need to draft, draft and re-draft.

- Last sentence doesn't fit – there's too much of a jump between past and present
- Need to raise subject of poetry earlier – move this to the second sentence
- 'Suffering' / 'making amends' Needs a better word - more forceful - it's a controversial topic so I need to be careful about summing up in one sentence
- Sentences getting too long: TLS!
- Split sentences into clear simple ideas (adjust as needed) / take out unnecessary words
- 'Art, song, verbal' this list is clunky
- Transition between first and second sentence – lacks cohesion?
- Last sentence still too long
- R – 'culture' need to vary this
- I love this group of sentences at the end. I have invested time and thought into them – but it does not get to the heart of what the task is about. It is not going to make the final cut! Be brutal.

The following page shows the actual text being adjusted. **Don't worry about the subject / content in the example below.** The purpose of this document is to demonstrate the lengthy process of proper editing which all writers go through.

(draft 1)

The history of the treatment of Aboriginal culture in Australia does not make for pleasant reading. In the short time we have this afternoon, I cannot hope to convey the suffering, guilt, indifference and (word for making amends?) which has characterised the uneasy partnership between European settlers and their Aboriginal hosts since 1788. Australians now realise the immense value of the remains of the indigenous culture which surrounds them.

- Last sentence doesn't fit – too much of a jump between past and present
- need to raise subject of poetry earlier – move this to sentence 2
- Suffering / making amends (need better word) - needs to be more forceful - it's a controversial topic, need to be careful about summing up in one sentence.

(d.2)

The history of the treatment indigenous culture in Australia does not make for pleasant reading. Fortunately, Australians now realise the immense value of the remains of the indigenous culture which surrounds them – a culture which produces original and compelling art, song, verbal history and the subject of our (presentation) today: poetry. In the short time we have this afternoon, I cannot hope to convey the suffering and subsequent guilt, the indifference and subsequent reparation which has characterised the uneasy partnership between European settlers and their Aboriginal hosts since 1788.

- Sentences getting too long
- Split (and adjust as needed) / take out unnecessary words
- 'Art, song, verbal' etc is clunky

(d.3)

The history of the treatment of indigenous culture in Australia does not make for pleasant reading. Fortunately, Australians now realise the immense value of the remains of the indigenous culture which surrounds them. Aboriginal culture produces compellingly original art and resounds with ceremonial song. Its traditions have produced a rich verbal history, and – most significantly for our purposes today - a unique body of poetry.

In the short time we have this afternoon, I cannot hope to convey the suffering and subsequent guilt, the indifference and subsequent reparation which has characterised the uneasy partnership between European settlers and their Aboriginal hosts since 1788.

- Transition between first and second sentence - cohesion is clunky ?
- Last sentence too long
- R – 'culture'

(d.4)

The history of the treatment of indigenous people in Australia since 1788 does not make for pleasant reading. Fortunately, Australians now realise the value of the indigenous culture which surrounds them. Aboriginal culture produces original art and resounds with ceremonial song. Its traditions rely on a rich verbal history, and – most significantly for our purposes today - a unique body of poetry.

*The uneasy partnership between European settlers and their Aboriginal hosts has been characterised by a slow movement towards acceptance. In the short time we have this afternoon, I cannot hope to convey the suffering and subsequent guilt, the indifference and subsequent reparation of the Anglo-Australian and Aboriginal melting pot. I like this section and have invested time and thought – but it does not get to the heart of what the task is about. It is not going to make the final cut!*

- Be brutal.

(d.5)

The history of the treatment of indigenous people in Australia since 1788 does not make for pleasant reading. Fortunately, Australians now realise the value of the indigenous culture which surrounds them. Aboriginal culture produces original art and resounds with ceremonial song. Its traditions rely on a rich verbal history, and – most significantly for our purposes today - a unique body of poetry.

The remaining pockets of aboriginal language vary immensely across the vast landscape of Australia. What each dialect has in common is a musicality which – though the meaning may be lost – is strangely engaging to the uninitiated ear.

*Gurrada walda dureja  
Murri willi willi dureja  
We e e e e e e !*

This sample of traditional Aboriginal song clearly demonstrates the importance of sound, particularly of vowel sounds, in indigenous speech. Whilst these lines can be translated to English and their meaning preserved, the music of these words is lost in translation. To understand the full scope of Aboriginal poetry, we must look to poems written in English.