

Brooke Harrison

Substantive Edits – Reflection

As a creative writer, I've had previous experience with readings others' work and making critiques / substantive edits. In fact, I really enjoy it, because I enjoy helping writers strengthen their work. This project gave me an opportunity to do that. I read both of my partners' papers and made substantive edits using Word's comments feature. I think it's a cool feature because it allows me to point out the sections of the text for which my comments/ideas are relevant.

Substantive edits are very different from copyedits, which was what we'd been previously working on in class, because substantive edits are more global. I addressed issues such as organization/structure, clarity, and consistency. One of the greatest challenges of substantive editing is remaining impartial – politely/respectfully suggesting changes which will strengthen the text without forcing your own personal writing style on the author of the piece. Also, it's important to provide a brief explanation or reason for a suggested edit, so the author can understand HOW this edit might strengthen or clarify their work.