7: Color-code for clarity.
- Making our writing visual can help us understand the map of what we’ve written and better focus our revision. For example, you can color-code all evidence green, all analysis purple—then if a single page has no green, you know where to go back and add it in. You can also color-code according to theme, topic, or parts of a paragraph.

Try this: Color-code your draft into a visual map.
1. Pick 3 colors and code your draft according to theme, subject, or what feels on track and what does not.
2. Remodel the draft as needed, moving sections around, eliminating redundancies, making sure each paragraph has its own distinct purpose, building upon the previous ones.

8: Read aloud to polish + echo language/ideas to stitch transitions.
- Once you feel good about where everything is, it’s time to smooth out the draft into a cohesive paper. To do this, read aloud twice, slowly. The first time, read for order and logic and overall flow. The second time, read to polish at the sentence level. Listen for unclear, boring, or repetitive phrases. Make sure each idea is distilled and presented as succinctly and fairly as possible, and that each paragraph feels clearly framed with its main point strongly reflected both in the first (topic) sentence, the final (anchor) sentence, and the choice of evidence in between. Once your paper feels polished, then the second step is to stitch together transitions between paragraphs, making them feel clear and inevitable. An easy way to do this is identify where a paragraph ends by focusing on its “anchor-sentence” (mini-conclusion). Borrow the language and main idea of the anchor to repurpose and echo in the topic sentence that follows, so these stitches between paragraphs feel seamless.

Try this: Polish and stitch!
1. Read aloud twice, once for flow, second for polished sentences.
2. Adjust the language of the topic/anchor sentences to make sure each hitch feels tight.
3. Read aloud a third time. Repeat until you can’t make it any better.

9: Seek Feedback using Collaborative Critique.
- Every writer, no matter how experienced, needs good readers. Your good readers can be a friend, a colleague, a professor, or a fellow student. The key is to useful critique is to set it up like a true collaboration, with both reader and writer appraising the paper together, working to understand what it does, what works, and what is still needed in terms of revision.

Try this: Engage in collaborative critique.
1. Try this method for collaborative critique: ask 2-3 trusted readers the following questions: In its current version, what does this paper accomplish: __; what works well in the current version (and should stay as is): __; what is still needed to get to ideal version (and will need further revision): ____.
2. Revise until the paper meets your goals for it, then send out to a journal, editor, or audience!