The Editing Process

"So-and-so is such a good writer"

No.

"So-and-so is such a good *editor*"

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Why is editing your own work hard?

It is hard to sense a reader's confusion, when you know what you meant.

- The best solution is time. Always edit on a different day.
- Read it in a different way than you wrote it (Print out, out loud, in a different location)
- Get someone else to read it

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Why is Editing Your Own Work Hard?

- It is hard to undo work you struggled over.
- It is hard to face errors you have made.

- However, you are a scientist.
- Evaluating, correcting, and improving are *fundamental* to science.

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Why is accepting editing from others hard?

As scientists, we know that we learn to do anything by making mistakes, having experts point them out, and then fixing the mistake.

- But when it comes to writing this can be emotionally charged – because the "text" is merged with "your ideas & thoughts" - it can be challenging to avoid taking criticism seriously.
- We don't like to be criticized.
- We *really* don't like to be criticized when we worked hard and struggled.

If you cannot accept & learn from critique, you will not improve.

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REMEMBER: It's not personal

An edit is a signal that something *in the text* is not working as intended. <u>This is a *completely impersonal fact*</u>.

A thorough edit from a collaborator is *an investment in you*.

It is a message that they believe you can fix problems, and that they want the work you care about to be the best it can be.

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Accepting Edits

When you ignore a collaborator's edit?

You are in denial.

- There was something wrong with the text and they tried to help.

- But you essentially said "No. It's perfect. You read it wrong."

- You may not agree with their fix, but you cannot ignore that the text was not working. *Try to understand what problem they're fixing.*

Abstract Outline

Facts Set the stage for the Narrative → Problem

Importance of Facts Impact within Sub Field

Problem This SETS the narrative

Goal – identify the "key component" that will solve the problem using a "target" We propose to…

Strategy – to utilize/generate the key component , (Justify HST/JWST, explain utilizing the "target") Suitability

Importance of Solution Impact within Sub Field

Broader Impact, other fields Out-of-field Impact