# SYLLABUS

**Class – B.A. (HONS.) MASS COMMUNICATION**

I Year

**Subject – ENGLISH (Paper-02)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNIT-I</td>
<td>Creative writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIT-II</td>
<td>Paragraph, Article, Report, Letters to Editor, Business letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIT-III</td>
<td>Language of newspaper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIT-IV</td>
<td>Editing Omission, Jumbled words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIT-V</td>
<td>Correction of sentences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The creative spark within an individual, leading to creative endeavours stems from a basic, yet strong, feeling of dissatisfaction with the usual process and activities. Some may not feel dissatisfied at all with the way things are. And, those who do feel discontented may react or respond in one of the following ways:

- Simply complaining or feeling frustrated without doing anything about the existing state of things.
- Trying to change the state of affairs by creating something new in a new way or even attempting to mould the public opinion or attitude by writing about the state of affairs in an original style with a skillful use of words and expressions.

**Definition:** Creative writing is the process of inventing or rather presenting your thoughts in an appealing way. The writer thinks critically and reshapes something known into something that is different and original. Each piece of writing has a purpose and is targeted at an audience. It is organized cohesively with a clear beginning, middle and an end. Attention is paid to choice of apt vocabulary, figurative use of language and style. The following can be taken as key points for understanding of writing creatively:

1. **The Beginning:** Creative writing takes its first breath when the writer asks, "What can I create out of a particular feeling, image, experience, or memory?"
2. **The Purpose:** It carries out a writer's compelling desire to imagine, invent, explore, or share. Writing satisfies the creative soul. It often takes on a life of its own; the writer merely follows along.
3. **The Form:** Any form using a writer's imagination is suitable for creative development of some element of fiction. Some of the most common types of creative writing are poetry, essays, character-sketches, short-fiction, anecdotes, play-scripts, songs, parodies, reminiscences, historical fiction etc.
4. **The Audience:** A specific audience may not be known in the beginning, and each situation is different. However, if the finished piece has a universal meaning, the story will speak to a wide range of readers and may have varied meaning for various people.
5. **The Style:** A writer’s style comes from an array of choices that result in the sole ownership of the finished product. The key to attaining a unique style is focused control. The writer lays out a viewpoint and if it appeals to the readers, it influences them.

**CREATIVE PROCESS**

1) Breathe the fresh air and think.
2) Allow your thoughts to float.
3) The journey of your thought will find the seeds to plant your story.
4) Revisit your ideas for topics and scan through the entries in your Portfolio that focus on your experiences.
5) Mind map a simple plan that contains a few characters, a basic setting and a problem that will be resolved.
6) Give life to your plan and write your first draft.
7) Take time to revise the basic frame of story.
8) Evaluate character development, conflict in plot, exciting twist and turns.
9) And Voila! You have a creative output!

ELEMENTS OF LANGUAGE

1. **Phonology** - (fuh-nol-uh-je) (n.) the sound system of a language –Pronunciation.
   Ex - Z,S, th, Dh,
2. **Morphology** - (mawr-fohl-uh-je) (n.) the study of the structure of words
   Morphology is the study of word structure. Though it appears on the surface that English words are irregular and idiosyncratic — go vs. went, foot vs. feet — there is a limited set of processes that allow speakers to create new words.
   First, some preliminaries. All languages have **words** and **morphemes**. Words can be freely moved around in a sentence. For example, cats is a word:

   "I like cats.
   Cats, I like. (Hamsters, I don’t.)"

   *Cats* is a complex word, made up of two morphemes; a morpheme is the smallest unit of meaning or function within a language. The two morphemes are the root *cat* and *-s*, which means ‘plural’. *-s* is a **bound morpheme**, meaning that it must attach to something else and cannot be freely moved around; I can’t just say “-s” in response to the question “Do you have one cat or more than one?” **Free morphemes**, on the other hand, can stand alone as words.

   English often allows multiple bound morphemes within a single word by a process called **affixation**. Affixation is the addition of prefixes, suffixes, and infixes to a root morpheme Bound morphemes that follow the root are **suffixes** (things like -ful, -ly, -ness in words like hopeful, quickly, or weirdness), while morphemes that precede the root are **prefixes** (for example, mis- as in misunderstand).

   So, in a word like mistrustful we have two bound morphemes, the prefix mis- and the suffix -ful, surrounding the root, trust:

   "mis-trust-ful"

   Or in a word like friendliness, we have a root followed by two suffixes:

   "friend-li-ness"

3. **Syntax** - (sin-taks) (n.) the study of the structure of sentences: In linguistics, syntax (from Ancient Greek σύνταξις "coordination" from σύν syn, “together,” and τάξις taxis, “an ordering”) is "the study of the principles and processes by which sentences are constructed in particular languages."

4. **Semantics** - (si-man-tiks) (n.) the study of meaning in language

5. **Pragmatics** - (prag-mat-iks) (n.), the appropriate use of language in different contexts

ELEMENTS OF GOOD WRITING

**PLOT OR STRUCTURE:** It is a true that *all art is an order*. The creative artist seeks to capture the world in a certain form, so that it could make some sense. Thus there has to be a formal structure to the writing subject. You will wish to write an arrangement of characters interacting with incidents/ situations for greater effectiveness. However, your skill lies in making it appear that it is no conscious arrangement, no plan, and no 'plot'. You need to have a well thought-out design or scheme, so that the story is neither dull, nor meaningless. Whatever the story, theme, or purpose may be, creative writers try to infuse meaning into the story. Creative writers always try to make their stories interesting and try to make it lively.
ATMOSPHERE: It is the context in which write-ups are written. Atmosphere is also referred to as settings. Writers use atmosphere or settings to attract and engage readers in their stories or write-ups. Most writers try to create a world or realm in which the readers can lose themselves. This setting could be realistic or imaginary. Many writers, particularly in short stories or novels, try to mix reality and imaginary. This mix of facts and fantasies makes write-ups more credible and reading more believable. Atmosphere is an important element of writing. It creates moods. It creates physical as well as psychological settings. It helps in creating the texture of the settings in which the writer sets the characters, locale, etc.

CHARACTERS: Characters are another important element of writing. Most writing involves people. And people form the characters in stories and write-ups. Also most writing is about human conditions. Human characters in various settings form the backbone of most writing. Also readers mostly identify and like to read about fellow human beings.

FUNDAMENTALS/ ESSENTIALS OF WRITING

1. USING SIMPLE LANGUAGE: Simplicity, it is said, is the hardest thing to achieve in writing. Most good writers have this art. But this is more of a craft or skill. Practice helps us achieve simplicity. And simplicity is the best way to achieve clarity, coherency, and comprehension.

2. USING SIMPLE WORDS: Some people use complex, high-sounding, and bombastic words in their writing. This is usually done to impress the readers. In reality such complex words have the opposite effect.

3. USING SIMPLE SENTENCES: It is easier to write many simple sentences than one complex or compound sentence. So why not write simple sentences? Long winding sentences only distract the reader.

4. ECONOMIZING ON WORDS: Most writers use too many words in their drafts. A careful editor deletes these at the time of editing. (This sentence itself can be written in simpler way – A careful editor edits this out). There is no substitute for simple, straightforward prose. You should not try to use one word more than is necessary.

5. AVOIDING JARGONS: Each profession has a technical language of its own. This is called jargon. You may be using certain abbreviations or names in your schools, sports field or in an office. Scientists do so in their labs. These are jargons. Only the select group understands them. As a writer, you should not use them. You should rather explain the jargon if you have to use it. Your aim should be to make your message clear to the people who have no direct relationship to such groups. Your writings should not cut people off from receiving your ideas by a language that they cannot understand.

6. AVOIDING ADJECTIVES: Adjectives and adverbs are often superfluous. You should build up your sentences around nouns and verbs. Usage of adjectives often weakens your message. We would suggest that you write two simple sentences than use an adjective, which more often is unnecessary if you descriptions are clear and vivid.

7. INTRODUCING CONTINUITY OF FLOW: While introducing a new idea or piece of information, do not do so without tying it to other parts of a story, springing up with sudden thoughts jolts a reader and like a sudden jerk on a smooth road, he is thrown off balance. Connect any new information in a story to information already introduced. You have to develop a mental discipline and read your copy with discerning eyes.

8. BEING SPECIFIC: Brevity is the soul of wit. Just as you try to avoid someone who talks too much, so do readers about writing, which have too many superfluous or high sounding words or pilings of phrases or
long-winding, and sentences that have run out of thoughts. Eliminate all that which you have said once. Have to have accuracy and clarity. But never try to sacrifice these for the sake of brevity.

9. AVOIDING REPETITIONS AND REDUNDANCIES: Both these traits show lack of discipline on the part of the writer. Sometimes facts need to be repeated but that is not the case very often. Cut out unnecessary words: Avoid adjectives and adverbs. As you write, such words often creep in. Be alert to weed these words out. Quite often you write really, actually, very, in fact and similar others.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD, EFFECTIVE WRITING

A common misconception among bloggers and writers alike is that good writing can only be achieved with years of experience, which is far from the truth. If you even think about starting a blog, you immediately realize that blogs consist primarily of writing new content and further promoting that content through other forms of writing, advertisements, and copy.

While you do need basic education to begin, very few bloggers have a Ph.D. in English or grammar – as they probably wouldn’t be working as an independent blogger, with the large risk involved. There is one set of core elements that you need to achieve whenever you write. As long as you strive for this, you won’t fail in your pursuit to create the blog that others desire to read everyday.

1. **You make a clear point.** Don’t let your readers have to ask themselves what your point is. Are you trying to market a product or simply review a product that you enjoyed, for example. On many blogs, the entire focus is oblique – it is difficult to define the “overall” focus of the website.

2. **A common mistake is length.** Good writing is never too long, never too short. It is concise, not elaborating on too many separate areas. This is particularly true when trying to get points across. Readers become easily distracted if you focus on one point (especially in list-type posts), leading them to avoid the rest of the post for that one block.

3. **There is information to back up your point.** No one is able to store the world’s information in their head. It’s a simple fact. You need to link to sources within your content, include images, diagrams, and other forms of media to draw in the readers. Words don’t cut it every time.

4. **Time is the best solution for the quality dilemma.** Just because you want to create more shouldn’t mean that the quality of your writing has to take a dive, too. Would people that aren’t a part of your field be able to understand, even if you leave out something crucial? If your answer was no, that means that you’ll need to spend more time adding references, details, or elaborate on the finer details.

5. **The writing is logical.** Understand that some people don’t want to read through the entire post. Few people do, especially as the content length increases. Although words are words, a paragraph blurred together with no spaces between any sentences or words is just a long word. People won’t read it. Although this is an extreme example, be sure that you have set up a post structure that allows readers to quickly scan the main points (bold, heading text, etc).

6. **Good grammar, English, and spelling.** Just because you can’t accomplish these two to three main areas of good writing doesn’t mean that you have “failed” as a writer. Simply improve on these, and readers will thank you.

7. **Readers become engaged.** With the focused point and effective writing style that you have developed (remember, it takes time), readers will become engaged in what you have to say. Writing the content is one part, but you’ll also need to bring the complete package to your readers in order to truly accomplish this. Feel what your readers might be going through in order to truly connect with them.

8. **Rules are broken all over the place.** Writing like everyone else is easy. Writing as yourself; creating, developing, and mastering a style is the hard part. Similarity is the greatest enemy for writers – once you become unique, there is little to stop you from reaching great heights.

9. **Influence.** One powerful word, one powerful point. Set the stage for what may lead to success, even if you don’t have confidence in yourself. Good writing challenges the reader to think about what
they have done in their life and how they can prepare for a reoccurrence of the event or situation in the future. Captivating your readers and evaluating their needs can help you accomplish the influence factor. 

10. Finally, and one of most important of all, is that great writers and the posts that they create are from their heart, not just created to profit or for gains. Text is one of the most powerful mediums out there. When you read text, you can get a good idea of how the writer feels about what they are writing about, even though no clear evidence is given. Readers can draw conclusions that you aren’t writing your best copy due to the fact that you are tired and exhausted from writing. This is something that can’t happen as long as you run your blog.

Good writing does more than just these ten main characteristics – it inspires, informs, and involves your readers. When you harness your full potential, you will be able to accomplish this with less work than you think. It will take quite a few revisions, modifications, and testing before you get it right, but it will happen.

The now-famous authors born during the past century didn’t start writing with any advanced education – just the skills and knowledge that they had when they “decided” to pursue writing novels or other forms of literature. They didn’t become instant sensations, they didn’t lead lives that were extravagant, and their ideas were often challenged during the time that they were alive. But there was something that set apart their work from the millions of other aspiring authors – they brought their entire package to the table, taking enormous risks simply to pursue their passion.

LUCIDITY

1. Easily understood; intelligible.
2. Mentally sound; sane or rational.
3. Translucent or transparent.

Lucidity is basically clarity of thoughts in sense of creative writing. So that we consider the word ‘Clarity’ or ‘Clearness” in the place of lucidity to understand the importance of LUCIDITY i.e. Clarity in writing.

Why does it matter if your writing is clear or not? Surely, anyone with half a brain can make out what you’re trying to say! Well, when what you’re saying is not very important to you or to your reader, you don’t need to write with much care. But when your message is important enough to make you want to get it across clearly, and when it’s important to the reader that he or she understand it fully, clarity is obviously essential. Importance calls for understanding on the recipient’s part; achievement of the understanding that both writer and reader want is possible only in the presence of clarity. If this sounds really obvious to you – it is. Just think, though, of how much garbled nonsense pours into the world every day, in every form of speech.

Here are some suggestions to help you keep your important writing clear in order to accomplish your desired impact, whether you’re writing for publication, for a client, for a speech, or just for yourself:

1. Be very clear about what it is you want to convey.
2. Have a good understanding of who you want to convey it to. Focus on that audience (and no other), and get some accurate idea of how to introduce your subject to that audience so they will willingly read your writing or listen to you.
3. Decide on an approach to your reader or audience (such as: formal, informal, academic, poetic, journalistic, adversarial, persuasive, explanatory, satirical, ironic, dramatic, familiar, casual, buddy-buddy, and so on) and match your writing style to that approach; avoid mixing approaches and styles.
4. Plan out the presentation of your ideas from a beginning that is (a) acceptable to your audience, (b) encourages their interest, and (c) helps them track with you while they read on.
5. In your designing, clearly envision the end result or objective or product of your writing, and build up to it connectedly and as strongly as you can, and put it in place like an anchor for the whole piece. If you’ll be wanting the readers to take some action, then prepare the ground for asking or

directing them to take it in such a way as to leave them in no doubt about what you are asking them to do. And build up the flow of your piece so that as many as possible will be minded to agree with your request or direction.

6. When your design and objective are clear to you, start writing. As you write, envision a reader's response to what you are writing; see if you can pick up any questions the reader might have, or some element of your persuasion that might make an un-smooth progression of thought for the reader as he or she follows you along.

7. Although I’ve emphasized writing according to prepared design and plan, I also advise that as you start writing, you be alert for the possibility that your writing might just decide to go off in a direction you hadn’t envisioned. In some circumstances, such as personal writing, essays, op-ed pieces, term papers, short stories, or novels, and others, this writing can be far more authentic and interesting than the design would ever be. To succeed in this way of writing, you must (a) keep sight of your original objective – or you must restate it as soon as you can, and (b) avoid violating any contractual or other agreements with another for the piece you are writing.

8. Whichever way you do it, employ words whose meanings and uses you clearly understand. If you have any question about what a word means or how to use it correctly, look it up in the dictionary before including it. Choose words that are themselves clear. When you find yourself writing words like “awesome,” “unbelievable,” “great,” “cool,” and so on, recognize that you’re introducing distracting fuzz into your flow – and cut it out. Look for the words that clearly convey what you want the reader to grasp. If fuzz is part of your design, though, keep it in.

9. There is no substitute for correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Some people will not be offended by errors in these but they may misdirect themselves away from your message because, for example, the placing of one comma can completely change the meaning of a sentence. A person who is familiar with grammar, spelling, and punctuation might reject your message (even though your message is valid and valuable) if he or she considers that your errors undermine trust in your judgment.

10. Use words and expressions that your audience is familiar with; if you need or want to use a term, abbreviation, or phrase outside of their presumed vocabulary, use it -- but give a helpful definition in parenthesis.

11. Design your paragraphs and sentences for greatest impact as your actual writing builds up to the climax and completion of your message and request for action. Here are some techniques to help you increase impact:

* In your sentences, try to use the passive mood as little as possible.
* See if you can put the important idea of the sentence at or near its end.
* Vary your sentence lengths and do not be afraid of the occasional long sentence. It is quite all right to have people think about what they're reading.
* Ideally, you build up your paragraph so that it’s most important point comes out in its last sentence; sometimes it’s better to put the point in the first sentence. In the latter case, be sure that you end the paragraph with one of your strongest arguments for that point, and put it in a strong sentence.
* Review your paragraph for smoothness by reading it out loud, listening for any awkward sounds or rhythms, and for any jumps in your logic, any excess verbiage, and possibly for a more inspiring phrase.

12. If you come to the point of not seeing clearly where you should go next in writing your build-up to your climax, take a break. When you come back, read your piece from the beginning. If you don’t see clearly where you go next, read over your outline and your notes. Should the way forward still not be clear, examine your last paragraph or two to see if one of them is a little too condensed and needs to be fleshed out, perhaps even fleshed out into two separate paragraphs.

13. When you’re all done, put the piece away for at least a day. After the break, read it, mark all the errors you see and the improvements you think of as you read, look to mercilessly slash everything that is not closely relevant, note any questions that come up for you -- but don't make any major revisions yet. Once through the first time, consider the questions and notes you made, and determine how much substantial editing you will do, and do it. Write your new draft. Put the piece away for at least a day; share

your manuscript with a friend who will give you an objective pair of eyes and ears and perhaps very helpful comments. Review your piece yet again.

14. Publish! Or deliver! Or read your speech! Observe how it goes down. Note how you can do better next time, and take all your lessons from the experience to heart. Use them!

**DIRECTNESS**

The challenge to directness comes from two fronts: WORDINESS and VAGUENESS. A wordy writer uses more words than are necessary to convey his meaning; a vague writer fails to convey her meaning as sharply and clearly as she might. Our objective in writing is to convey our meaning as directly and as economically as possible, without sacrificing clarity and completeness.

This document focuses on WORDINESS, i.e., on how to spot and eliminate wordiness.

1. **Nominals**

Nominals are nouns that have been created by adding suffixes to verbs: ESTABLISHMENT, COMPLETION, DELIVERANCE and so on. While there is nothing wrong with those words, using unnecessary nominals tends to make writing ponderous and slow moving. That is, VERBS (words which convey action) have been transformed into NOUNS (words which point to objects). Learn to spot nominals suffixes, which include -MENT, -TION, -ENCE, -ITY, -IZE, and -NESS.

e.g., Strict ENFORCEMENT of the speed limit by the police will cause a REDUCTION in traffic fatalities. / If the police strictly enforced the speed limit, traffic fatalities will be reduced.

2. **Weak Verbs**

Vague, weak verbs such as ALLOW, HAVE, GIVE, MAKE, PROVIDE, and TAKE occur in combination with nominals as replacements for the stronger, more energetic verbs that have been changed into nouns. Another weak verb form, the PASSIVE-VOICE verb, also lengthens sentences and reduces vigor because it focuses on THINGS BEING DONE rather than on DOING THINGS. Consequently, a statement in the passive-voice requires a prepositional phrase to identify the AGENT or the DOER. Your writing will become less wordy if you chose specific, concrete, active-voice verbs.

e.g., At the next meeting, the city council WILL TAKE the fire fighters' request for a raise under consideration. / At the next meeting, the city council will consider the fire fighters' request for a raise.

A decision WAS REACHED by the council members to amend the zoning laws. / The council members decided to amend the zoning laws.

3. **Roundabout constructions**

Indirect and circuitous wording annoys readers, i.e., it detracts from quick, clear understanding of your meaning. Words like ANGLE, ASPECT, FACTOR and SITUATION, and phrases like AS IN THE CASE OF, IN THE LINE OF, IN THE FIELD OF are usually obstacles to directness.

e.g., Another aspect of the situation that needs to be examined is the matter of advertizing. / We should also examine advertizing.

4. **Unnecessary phrases and clauses**

Wordiness often results from using clauses when phrases will do, or phrases when single words will do. Where appropriate, try reducing clauses to participial or appositive phrases or to single-word compound modifiers.

e.g., The conclusions THAT THE COMMITTEE OF STUDENTS reached are summarized in the newspaper OF THE COLLEGE THAT WAS TODAY. / The conclusions REACHED BY THE STUDENT COMMITTEE are summarized in TODAY'S COLLEGE NEWSPAPER.

5. **Redundancy**

Expressions like I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES and AUDIBLE TO YOU EARS are redundant, i.e., they express the same idea twice. Redundancies don’t clarify or emphasize; they sound stupid, especially with words that are already absolute and cannot logically be qualified further: UNIQUE, PERFECT, DEAD, for example.

e.g., ADVANCE FORWARD / advance; COMPLETELY ELIMINATE / eliminate; REFER BACK / refer; REPEAT AGAIN / repeat; CIRCLE AROUND / circle; CLOSE PROXIMITY / close; FEW IN NUMBER / few; PAST HISTORY / history, past.
6. **Awkward repetition** / Marking Code W-4

The repetition of important words can lend emphasis and coherence to your writing, but careless repetition is awkward and wordy.

e.g., The investigation revealed that the AVERAGE TEACHERS TEACHING industrial arts in Alberta have an AVERAGE working and TEACHING experience of five years. / The investigation revealed that industrial arts teachers of Alberta have on average five years' experience.

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**CREDIBILITY**

Any writer who is looking to build a successful career must gain an authority within the writing/publishing industry. Credibility assures customers that a writer is an established and respected professional. If you are searching for ways to gain credibility as a writer, consider the following steps:

1. **Write all the time if you want to be respected in the field.** The best way to become a credible writer is to be a better writer, and the best way to improve your writing is to write everyday. Use whatever mediums are available to you, the Internet, local newspapers and magazines.

2. **Improve your writing skills by enhancing your writing knowledge.** A credible writer is someone who knows as much about writing as possible. Understanding the technicalities, writing rules and styles is imperative in this industry. For this reason, you should take writing classes and workshops in various areas of writing, and specifically in your own genre of writing, as well as attend conventions and conferences.

3. **Being associated with an already credible writer is useful.** Have an established writer provide some additional content for your site. Once you build your own reputation, ask that credible writer if you can submit an article. If you are a skilled writer, you will be invited to write for other blogs. Write for as many as you can and expand your readership. This in turn will build your writing integrity and reputation.

4. **Create a blog so that you can promote your writing skills.** If you write a blog that is focused on the art of writing, then you will build credibility with every entry. Potential clients will read your work. A blog is better than a resume because it demonstrates your skill of writing. Just make sure that every entry you write is edited. Just like a blog can build your credibility as a great writer, it can damage it with a single typo.

5. **Use social media to get your name recognized.** There are so many opportunities to get your name out there. Sign up with twitter and Facebook and other social media sites to offer useful writing tips or update your readers about your professional schedule or calendar. If you are a published author, you can use these forums to entice readers and get them exciting news about upcoming books or conferences you will be attending. Post as much as you can online, and on printed media.

6. **Provide your best work to all your clients.** Word of mouth can make or break your credibility as a writer. If you do a great job, then you might be asked to do more work for the same client and referred on to others. Therefore, only take work that you know you can do, and do well; always write you own content and create and meet realistic deadlines.

7. **Do not let writing takes over your life; instead allow it to be part of what you do in your life.**

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**OBJECTIVITY**

Objectivity means that when covering hard news, reporters don’t convey their own feelings, biases or prejudices in their stories. They accomplish this by writing stories using a language that is neutral and avoids characterizing people or institutions in ways good or bad.

But for the beginning reporter accustomed to writing personal essays or journal entries, it can be hard to keep one’s own feelings out of one’s stories. One trap beginning reporters fall into is the frequent use of adjectives. Adjectives can easily convey one’s feelings about a subject, subconsciously or otherwise.

**Objectivity** - This means that the main emphasis should be on the information that you want to give and the arguments you want to make, rather than you. This is related to the basic nature of academic study and academic writing, in particular. Nobody really wants to know what you “think” or “believe”. They want to know what you have studied and learned and how this has led you to your various conclusions.
The thoughts and beliefs should be based on your lectures, reading, discussion and research and it is important to make this clear.

1. Compare these two paragraphs:
   The question of what constitutes "language proficiency" and the nature of its cross-lingual dimensions is also at the core of many hotly debated issues in the areas of bilingual education and second language pedagogy and testing. Researchers have suggested ways of making second language teaching and testing more "communicative" (e.g., Canale and Swain, 1980; Oller, 1979b) on the grounds that a communicative approach better reflects the nature of language proficiency than one which emphasizes the acquisition of discrete language skills.

   We don't really know what language proficiency is but many people have talked about it for a long time. Some researchers have tried to find ways for us to make teaching and testing more communicative because that is how language works. I think that language is something we use for communicating, not an object for us to study and we remember that when we teach and test it. Which is the most objective?

2. In general, avoid words like "I", "me", "myself". A reader will normally assume that any idea not referenced is your own. It is therefore unnecessary to make this explicit.
   Don't write: "In my opinion, this a very interesting study."
   Write: "This is a very interesting study."
   Avoid "you" to refer to the reader or people in general.
   Don't write: "You can easily forget how different life was 50 years ago."
   Write: "It is easy to forget how difficult life was 50 years ago."

3. Examples
   Clearly this was far less true of France than ...
   This is where the disagreements and controversies begin ...
   The data indicates that ...
   This is not a view shared by everyone; Jones, for example, claims that ...
   ...very few people would claim ...
   It is worthwhile at this stage to consider ...
   Of course, more concrete evidence is needed before ...
   Several possibilities emerge ...
   A common solution is ...

**FEATURE WRITING**

Features are not meant to deliver the news firsthand. They do contain elements of news, but their main function is to humanize, to add color, to educate, to entertain, to illuminate. They often recap major news that was reported in a previous news cycle. Features often:

- Profile people who make the news
- Explain events that move or shape the news
- Analyze what is happening in the world, nation or community
- Teach an audience how to do something
- Suggest better ways to live
- Examine trends
- Entertain.

**TYPES OF FEATURES**

- **Personality profiles**: A personality profile is written to bring an audience closer to a person in or out of the news. Interviews and observations, as well as creative writing, are used to paint a vivid picture of the person. The CBC’s recent profile of Pierre Elliot Trudeau is a classic example of the genre and makes use of archival film footage, interviews, testimonials, and fair degree of editorializing by the voice-over commentary.
WRITING AND ORGANIZING FEATURE STORIES

- **Human interest stories**: A human interest story is written to show a subject's oddity or its practical, emotional, or entertainment value.
- **Trend stories**: A trend story examines people, things or organizations that are having an impact on society. Trend stories are popular because people are excited to read or hear about the latest fads.
- **In-depth stories**: Through extensive research and interviews, in-depth stories provide a detailed account well beyond a basic news story or feature.
- **Backgrounder**: A backgrounder--also called an analysis piece--adds meaning to current issues in the news by explaining them further. These articles bring an audience up-to-date, explaining how this country, this organization, this person happens to be where it is now.

**Feature Writing: A tool writers use to move subtly from one person or topic to the next.**

**Transition**: Transition is particularly important in a long feature examining several people or events because it is the thread that connects the lead to the body and to the conclusion. Because a feature story seldom uses the inverted-pyramid form, feature writers, like fiction writers, often use dialogue to keep the story moving. Of course, feature writers cannot make up dialogue; they listen for it during the reporting process. Good dialogue is like good observation in a story; it gives readers strong mental images and keeps them attached to the writing and to the story's key players.

**Establish a voice**: Another key element that holds a feature together is voice, the "signature" or personal style of each writer. Voice is the personality of the writer and can be used to inject colour, tone, and subtle emotional commentary into the story. Voice should be used subtly (unless you're able to make it loud and clear).
The blatant intrusion of a distinctive voice into news writing has been called *gonzo journalism*—an irresponsible, if entertaining, trend in contemporary writing according to traditionalists.

**Conclude with a quotation or another part of the thread.** A feature can trail off like a news story or it can be concluded with a climax. Often, a feature ends where the lead started, with a single person or event.

**ESSAY**

Essays are brief, non-fiction compositions that describe, clarify, argue, or analyze a subject. Students might encounter essay assignments in any school subject and at any level of school, from a personal experience "vacation" essay in middle school to a complex analysis of a scientific process in graduate school. Components of an essay include an introduction, thesis statement, body, and conclusion.

**ESSAY STRUCTURE**

Proper essay structure is critical for the success of a paper. It allows you to align your thoughts and ideas logically, making them readable and easy to understand for your reader. Basic essay logic starts out with the introduction of the essay’s main idea and then explains it further in the body paragraphs and ends the essay by summing everything up in the last paragraph—the conclusion (see the scheme on the left). To better understand why essay structure is so important, try to imagine an essay that starts out with body paragraphs, followed with a thesis and a conclusion. Such essay would be impossible to read because of its faulty logic. Let’s take a closer look at each of the components.
Introduction - The introduction is the main component within the structure of your essay. This part contains the main thought of the essay and states the purpose of your writing. The introduction typically consists of a thesis statement (also called “a topic sentence”) and a few more sentences that explain or expand the main statement. The topic sentence together with these few sentences are collectively referred to as the “introduction.”

Body - The two or three paragraphs that follow the introduction are called “the body” of the essay. They are called so because they make up the body, or the main bulk of the paper. This part of the essay usually contains research data and information that supports your thesis. The purpose of every paragraph within the body of your essay should be to support your thesis.

Using Paragraphs - Each paragraph should contain one main idea and should provide supporting details for your topic and thesis. The topic (introductory) sentence of each paragraph should support the main idea.

Paragraph Size - Even though there are no hard and fast rules regarding paragraph length, a general rule of thumb prescribes that a paragraph should not be neither too long (over 8 sentences) nor too short (under 2 sentences). Paragraph size varies depending on the essay style: for example the average paragraph length in business writing is generally 4-5 sentences, while the average paragraph length in academic writing is around 8-10 sentences. Academic writing tends to be longer because the author has to state a point, back it up with research data, and come to a conclusion. Such kind of writing usually requires a greater amount of writing.

Review Your Writing - Reviewing your writing or the post-writing phase takes place when you are done writing your paper. It's always a good idea to put your essay aside for a couple of hours and then come back to it later. It is important to read through each paragraph to make sure your ideas make sense and convey your points clearly. Also, be sure that you have not strayed away from your main point. Each paragraph should be relevant to your thesis. If you have found that any of your body paragraphs strays from your thesis, a rewrite or omission may be necessary.

Conclusion - The final part in your essay structure is the conclusion. It summarizes the points made in the introduction and the body paragraphs of your paper. The core function of the conclusion is not only to summarize ideas stated in the introduction and the body, but to show how they relate to the thesis. A good technique is to use logical connections like: “as we can see”, “therefore”, “naturally”, “summing up” etc. Such connecting phrases help you to tie the points made previously with the actual text of the conclusion that you are writing. Once again, a conclusion should review your thesis and give a summary of your main ideas. Depending on your instructor's requirements, your conclusion can range from one paragraph to a page in length.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY
The descriptive essay genre encourages a writer to create a striking account of a chosen subject. A descriptive essay provides a good platform for a writer to express his or her feelings on a subject. As the name suggests, the essay is a description of an object, person, location, or experience. The essay generally includes an introduction, body and conclusion centered on a chosen theme. The writing style is expressive and may include descriptions, opinions, comparisons, personal perceptions and sensory perceptions. The main objective of a descriptive essay is to relate the unique qualities of the person, object, etc. vividly and comprehensively.

1) Capture Readers’ Interest
A descriptive essay should make for interesting reading. To make the essay appealing, the writer needs to consider audience preferences, and use words and descriptions that pique readers' interest. For example, a descriptive essay about a car, written for potential customers, would describe technical and design specifications but would place greater emphasis on aspects that are more likely to concern or interest customers, such as gas mileage, speed, comfort, special features like a sun roof or add-on features like LCD screens.

2) Visualization
Descriptive essays are based more on "show" than "tell" -- giving readers a visual idea of the subject. For example, a "tell" sentence would be, "The sun disappeared into the water." The same sentence in "show" mode might read, "The setting sun disappeared in a blaze of red and gold glory, swallowed up, it would seem, by the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean." Through vivid depictions, the writer conveys to readers individual impressions based on emotions or perceptions.

3) Perception: Descriptive essays make use of the five senses. The writer effectively conveys personal perceptions on the subject through the use of sensory details and figurative details. Sensory details are those that appeal to the five senses while figurative details involve the use of similes and metaphors to describe the subject. The use of sensory details makes the essay more vibrant and appealing to the readers' imagination. For example, graphic descriptions of odors -- pleasant or unpleasant -- allows readers to "experience" smells.

4) Objective vs. Subjective Viewpoint
A descriptive essay can be either objective (concrete, factual) or subjective (personal). The type of essay that a writer creates will be determined by the kind of emotion that the writer wants to elicit from readers. Presenting a purely objective can be difficult. Conversely, a writer can reduce subjectivity in an essay by including more objective factors, like size, color, shape and distance, exhausting them before injecting personal opinions or feelings.

PARAGRAPH WRITING
What are the characteristics of an effective paragraph?

1) Unity in paragraph
Unity in the paragraph means oneness of idea. A good paragraph possesses unity when all the sentences develop the main idea. Unity in the paragraph is achieved by the use of (1) a topic sentence with its controlling idea (2) supporting details, and (3) a clinching sentence.

2) Coherence in the paragraph
The word "coherence" derived from "cohere" literally means "to hold together". If the sentences in the paragraph should relate to the topic sentence to effect a unified whole, these sentences should further be arranged in an orderly sequence and linked to one another to ensure a smooth progression of ideas from one sentence to another.

3) Emphasis in the paragraph
Emphasis is concerned with how important the ideas can be made prominent. Ideas in the paragraph are made emphatic through (1) position in the paragraph, (2) proportion in discussion, (3) the use of parallel grammatical structures, (4) the repetition of key ideas, and (5) the arrangement of ideas in a climate order.

Characteristics of a Good Paragraph
Many writers are eager to write their ideas into several paragraphs and to submit their work when it is over. However, you also need to learn on how to determine the quality of your paragraphs. Know how to determine the characteristics of a good paragraph.

Not all the paragraphs are the same. Some are good, others border on clutter.

1. Your paragraphs should be unified. That means all of your sentences are geared towards pushing a central idea. Which idea? Now's a good time to look at what you actually wrote on the topic sentence.

2. Your paragraphs should be clearly linked to the main thesis. If a paragraph has nothing to do with the main thesis, it shouldn't even appear on your paper. Make sure the relationship isn't lost on the reader.

3. Your paragraphs should be coherent. Each sentence on the paragraph should lead right into the next, demonstrating a logical organization that sufficiently develops the idea.

4. Your paragraphs should be well-developed. That means your ideas are sufficiently rounded out and adequately discussed, ably aided by supporting evidence and illustrations that clarify the main points for the reader.

5. Your paragraphs should be correct. By correct, we mean it demonstrates adherence to the proper rules of grammar and sentence structures. Readers should be able to read it, after all, without risk of misunderstanding.

UNIT II
ARTICLE WRITING

Steps of Article Writing

Article Writing Format: Suppose you have some opinions regarding a topic and you want to tell people about it. How will you do so? You can tell the opinions to persons near you. But what if you want to tell not only those people but, say, the world? How will you do so? You will write those opinions, isn’t it?

Many a time you have seen some writers or people write their problems and suggestions in some newspapers, magazines, and journals or in their blogs. They are writing their opinions and beliefs in the form of an article.

An article is a piece of writing written for a large audience. The main motive behind writing an article is that it should be published in either newspapers or magazines or journals so as to make some difference to the world.

It may be the topics of interest of the writer or it may be related to some current issues. The topic can either be serious or not-so-serious; same goes for its tone and language.

Objectives of Article Writing

An article is written with the following objectives:

- It brings out the topics or the matter of interest in the limelight
- The article provides information on the topics
- It offers suggestions and pieces of advice
- It influences the readers and urges them to think
- The article discusses various stories, persons, locations, rising-issues, and technical developments

The Format of Article Writing

An article must be organized in a proper way so as to draw the attention of the readers. The basic outline for an article writing format is

1. Heading / Title
2. A line having the writer’s name
3. Body (the main part of the article, 2 – 3 paragraphs)
4. Conclusion (Ending paragraph of the article with the opinion or recommendation, anticipation or an appeal)
While writing an article, always use proper grammar, spelling, and proper punctuations.

Use vocabulary skill.

Keep the introduction of the topic catchy, interesting, and short.

Discuss the opinion and the matter in an organized and descriptive manner.

**Common Mistakes in the Article Writing Format**

Some of the common mistakes are:

- Not using facts or quotes or similar cases.
- The language should not be too formal.
- The article must be in easy language for better understanding.
- The title of the article must be catchy and clearly understandable.
- No use of paragraphs.
- Expressing personal views is fine but the author must never talk about himself/herself.

**Points to Keep in Mind for the Article Writing Format**

- The topics of the articles should be unique and relevant.
- The article has to get attention.
- It has to be interesting.
- It has to be easy to read.
- The reader is identified.
- Find the main goal of writing an article. The goal can be anything from providing information, entertainment, and advice or for comparing, etc.
- The title must be eye-catching, clear, and interesting.
- The introduction or the starting paragraph must be highly attentive. Use your vocabulary skills or try to use some interrogative words for the start.
- Use clear statements and make assertions.
- Avoid repetition and over the top logic and reasons.
- Use the style of paragraph writing and write the contents uniquely and unambiguously.
- Avoid using the points which interest only you and not the general public.
- Write a good and logical ending.
For eg. By 2050, India will be amongst the countries which will face acute water shortage. You are highly alarmed and terrified of the future world without water. So, write an article on “Save water- are we doing enough?” for the local daily in 150-200 words.

REPORT WRITING

A report is a brief account of an event that has already taken place. The report helps in recording the events of importance that occur in day-to-day life. It attempts to present the firsthand information of an incident or event. A report of an event includes one's ideas, opinions and impressions about the event.

Steps to remember while writing a report:
- Mention the place, date, time and other relevant facts about the event.
- Include information collected from the people around or affected by the event.
- Write the name of the reporter.
- Provide a suitable title/heading.
- Write in past tense.
- Write in reported speech and use passive form of expression.
- Develop ideas (causes, reasons, consequences, opinions) logically.
- Write in less formal and more descriptive manner, while writing a report.
- Present your ideas and impressions to make the report interesting.

For eg. Your state government has banned the use of plastic bags. You are Aman/Sakshi, a reporter of The Hindu. Write a report in 100-125 words on how the ban is being ignored and what damage the indiscriminate use of plastic bags is causing to the environment.

BUSINESS LETTERS

A business letter is different from a personal letter in form, tone and content. In personal letters we may follow an informal, personal tone, content or style. But business letters demand a formal and matter of fact treatment. These letters are generally written to or by commercial and business firms and enterprises, so they must be simple and systematic, brief and specific in content and formal in treatment of the subject. Commercial correspondence occupies an important role in the modern world of commerce, trade and industry. So students are advised to master the art and craft of writing good business letters.
WRITING GOOD BUSINESS LETTERS

1. Be brief, clear and to the point.
2. Use separate paragraphs for separate topics.
3. The first para should indicate the theme of the letter.
5. Use simple and direct language. Avoid the use of long and high sounding words and ambiguous construction.
6. Even while lodging a complaint or making criticism, you should be polite and charming.
7. Avoid common-place and clumsy expressions.
8. Use a proper layout/format for these formal letters. The block format is more in vogue in formal letters whereas the indented format may be used in informal letters.
9. Use of punctuation marks is dispensed within the block format.
10. Remember the following points about block format:
      1. There is no indentation.
      2. Each block begins with the margin on left hand side.
      3. Extra space should be left between different sections and paragraphs.
      4. Omit punctuation marks in address and date. A comma (,) may be put after the salutation.

Golden Rule. Always use:

(a) Suitable format.
(b) Well-organised content.
(c) Appropriate language.

(a) BUSINESS LETTERS

Tel. No .................................................................................................
Our Ref.................................................................................................
Your Ref. (if needed).........................................................................
Sender’s Address ..............................................................................
........................................................................................................
........................................................................................................
Pin ......................................................................................................
Date ....................................................................................................

Inside Address ................................................................................
........................................................................................................
........................................................................................................
Pin.....................................................................................................
Sir/Madam

Subject

 Introductory para

 Main body of the letter

 Concluding para

Yours faithfully

Signature

Full Name

Designation

enclosures (if needed)

(b) LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sender's Address

Pin

Date

Inside Address

Pin
Sir/Madam

Subject

Introductory para

Main body of the letter

Concluding para

Yours faithfully

Signature

(Full Name in capitals)

Designation (if needed)
UNIT-III
Language of Newspaper

Journalistic prose is explicit and precise, and tries not to rely on jargon. As a rule, journalists will not use a long word when a short one will do. They use subject-verb-object construction and vivid, active prose. They offer anecdotes, examples and metaphors, and they rarely depend on colorless generalizations or abstract ideas. News writers try to avoid using the same word more than once in a paragraph (sometimes called an “echo” or “word mirror”).

**Lead or Intro**
The most important structural element of a story is the lead or “intro”—the story’s first, or leading sentence. “An effective lead is a “brief, sharp statement of the story’s essential facts”. The lead is usually the first sentence, or in some cases the first two sentences, and is ideally 20-25 words in length.

Article leads are sometimes categorized into hard leads and soft leads. A hard aims to provide a comprehensive thesis which tells the reader what the article will cover. A soft lead introduces the topic in a more creative, attention-seeking fashion, and is usually followed by a nut graph.

**Feature Style**
News stories aren’t the only type of material that appear in newspapers and magazines. Longer articles, such as magazine cover articles and the places that lead the inside sections of a newspaper are known as features. Features stories differ from straight news lead, most of the time. Instead of offering the essence of a story up front, feature writers may attempt to lure readers in.

While straight news stories always stay in third person point of view, it’s not uncommon for a feature magazine article to slip into first person. The journalist will often detail his or her interactions with interview subjects, making the piece more personal.

Journalism instructors usually describe the organization or structure of a news story as an inverted pyramid. This structure enables readers to stop reading at any point and still come away with the essence of a story. It allows people to enter a topic to the depth that their curiosity takes them, and without the imposition of details or nuances that they would consider irrelevant.

The inverted pyramid structure enables sub-editors and other news staff to quickly create space for ads and late-breaking news simply by cutting items.

Poor structure typically begins with a faulty lead.

The inverted pyramid is a metaphor used to illustrate how information should be arranged or presented within a text, in particular within a news story. The “pyramid” can also be drawn as a triangle. The triangle’s broad base at the top of the figure represents the most substantial, interesting and important information the writer means to convey.

The format is valued because readers can leave the story at any point and understand it, even if they don’t have all the details. It also allows less important information to be more easily removed by editors so the article can fit a fixed size. Other news writing styles are also used, including the “anecdotal lead,” which begins the story with an eye-catching tale rather than the central facts.
FIVE WS
In Journalism, the Five Ws (also known as the Five Ws (and one H)) is a concept in news style, research, and in police investigations that are regarded as basic in information-gathering. It is a formula for getting the “full” story on something. The maxim of the Five Ws (and one H) is that in order for report to be considered. It must answer a checklist of six questions, each of which comprises an interrogative word:
- Who? Who was involved?
- What? What happened (what’s the story)
- When? When did it take place?
- Where? Where did it take place?
- Why? Why did it happen?
- How? How did it happen?
Importantly, none of these question can be answered with a simple “yes” or “no”.

NEWS VALUE
New values, sometimes called “news criteria”, determine how much prominence a news story is given by a media outlet, and the attention it is given by the audience.

News usually has at least one of these elements:
- Impact. Impact is determined by the number of people affected,
- Proximity. The closer your audience is to the event, the greater its news value.
- Timeliness. “New” is a big part of news. If it happened just before deadline, it's bigger news than if it happened last week.
- Prominence.
- Novelty.
- Conflict.
- Relevance.
- Usefulness.
- Human interest.

Golden rules to be followed while writing in a newspaper—
- Give the main points of news in the first paragraph. Take care of the rule of 5Ws and 1 H.
- Headline should provide meaning and convey the message and should attract readers.
- Check names, titles, facts, figures, dates and addresses. The sub-editor should keep a proper watch on these.
- In a dispute, both the party's views have to be provided.
- Use short sentences and short paragraph. Make it short and crisp.
- Repeat names in court cases rather than refer to them as accused, witness, etc.
- Indicate correctness of doubtful spelling by saying 'correct' within brackets.
- Beware of foreign names.
- Define long, unfamiliar words, especially, scientific and medical terms.
- Do not begin sentences, with words like a 'serous charge' or a 'certain offence'.
- Do not begin sentences with words like: ‘a’ ‘despite’ or ‘because’
- Reporters to give a rather artificial flow to the story ‘meanwhile’ often use the word. Cut it out.
- Use concrete words, words that make the reader see, hear, smell or taste. Which would give the readers a complete picture.
- Be careful about pronouns. The misuse of the relative pronoun and punctuation are the most common grammatical errors in the news stories.
- Editorializing any trace of personal opinion or a value judgment should be eliminated from the copy unless it is a feature or news analysis.
UNIT IV

The Importance of Editing

The experience of writing an essay, paper, and even a novel varies from person to person. Some people find it extremely simple while for others it seems to be impossible. Almost for everyone the ultimate trick to create a coherent and clear piece of writing is editing. Editing plays a great role in producing a fine piece of writing.

Editing is extremely vital in writing. It is an important step in the entire writing procedure. It includes steps to check out if there is any repetition as well as checking grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary errors. The purpose of editing is of great significance and there are several reasons behind it. It not only helps you in getting rid of the typos but, also polishes your work. It makes your story clearer and helps to identify minute errors easily. Despite of how tiresome and boring the process of editing can be, in the end it always brings out great deal of enjoyment.

Copy-editing helps to communicate ideas and points in a concise and clearer manner. It also helps to improve knowledge and writing skills in an effective way. Many writers often find that editing is also useful when they are editing their own work. It can be done either by the writer or even by some outside source. No matter which way a writer chooses but every piece of writing must go through some kind of editing.

Now, there are several editing software and cheap easy writing services available which make writers work much easier. These services not only provide essay writing services but also provide editing services at quite affordable prices. If you are also the one who can’t manage editing then you can think of taking services from any of them.

To give you a clearer image of the importance of editing in writing, we have combined four reasons. These reasons will further highlight the importance of editing in writing and will surely change your mind if you take editing for granted.
The reasons are as follows:

1. **First impression is counted:**

   Editing can help you in making excellent first impression. We are all aware about the importance of first impression. This is important for all type of writing but particularly research papers, journal articles, and dissertation. Like for example, poorly presented thesis shows lack of confidence. If a candidate’s thesis have improper formatting, minute errors in referencing, mistakes in figures or graphs, variation in chapters, headings, or capitalization mistakes so, all these signs won't give the examiner a good impression. This is also true for other types of academic writings as well. If your abstracts are over-length or don’t have limited number of keywords so, it can often result in your journal articles getting rejected. Similarly, books proposals and manuscripts that do not fulfill the required criteria are most likely to get rejections which are more due to presentation than content. Thus, to make a good first impression and to avoid getting your writings being rejected you must undergo the process of editing.

2. **To create undying value:**

   It is one of the most powerful reasons which emphasizes on the importance of editing. A page printed once is unchangeable. Getting readers towards your writings is not an easy task. You have to produce something extraordinary unique and eye catchy to attract the readers. To create an everlasting value of your writing, it is essential to edit your work before it gets printed. However, if you have an online webpage so, you might have the option to edit it frequently. Sometimes a blog post might not appear on the search engine and suggests for a keyword query to ensure that the visitors sees all the relevant content if they view an older post. Hence, here too editing is important.

3. **Polished piece of writing:**

   Writers are sometimes very bad at identifying errors in their own writings. It is because of the attachment towards their own work and also the knowledge of what they meant to say makes them blind to errors. This also makes them detract from the overall flow of writing and this result in producing dull end product. To overcome this problem, editing is required as no one can produce 100% mistake free content in their first attempt. A second pair of editing is required to correct all the typographical as well other type of errors so that in the end a polished piece of writing is produced.
4. **Clear and coherent message:**

Another reason for the importance of editing is that it ensures that your message is expressed clearly, coherently, and concisely as possible. By editing we don’t change our content but, improve the flow and logic of our writing. We ensure that all our arguments and ideas are expressed in a coherent manner so, that the message can be easily delivered and understood by others.

**Final Thoughts:**

Undoubtedly, writing is a flexible and long-term process. If you want to produce quality piece of writing so, you should have great editing skills. The importance of editing cannot be neglected in the writing process. To be a good writer you need to undergo the process of editing, so that you can work on your weak areas and can produce perfect piece of writing.

**The Proofreading Process**

After you edit your paper, proofreading it with a more focused eye will help you find errors and make the necessary revisions to improve the manuscript. Like editing, proofreading requires a systematic approach.

- **Take your time.**
  - If you think you will find all errors on the first read, you are mistaken.
  - Reading the manuscript out loud can help slow down the process and increase your focus.

- **Divide the Manuscript into Sections**
  - This will increase your focus and decrease the overwhelming feeling of tackling the entire manuscript in one read.

- **Highlight Common Errors.**
  - This helps with current and future writing assignments. The more familiar you are with your mistakes, the easier it will be to avoid them in the future.

**FOR UNIT IV & UNIT V REFER YOUR CLASSROOM EXERCISES**