

小溪作文五个常见毛病：对照自查，改一句赚一句

毛病一：从出门写到回家，每件事一行，成了流水账。早上出门、中午到了、下午回家，三行全删，直接从到溪边那一刻写起，出门路上的事压成半句：走了二十分钟，鞋都热透了。作文是挑出来的半天，不是记一天的账。自查方法很简单，数一数文里有几个时间词，超过四个就动手删。

毛病二：形容词一个接一个，碧绿柔软的柳条轻轻摆动，十分美丽动人。这种句子读一遍就忘。改法是一换三：删掉两个形容词，补一个动作加一个感觉，柳条扫到我胳膊，有点痒，像被狗耳朵蹭了一下。比喻用自己生活里的东西，别借用别人的好词好句本。

毛病三：全文没有我，只有溪水和景色，像一张风景照片。每个场景自查一遍，这段里我在干什么？柳树段我在够柳条，小虾段我在翻石头，野花段我在蹲着挑花。找不到我在哪里的段落，就补一句我的动作进去。

毛病四：写小虾写成了自然课笔记，小虾属于节肢动物，身体分头胸部和腹部。作文里的动物只写你眼睛看见的：须多长、什么颜色、受惊往哪逃、被装在瓶子里怎么游。知识可以留一条最有趣的，比如虾受惊是尾巴向前弹，不是往前游，其余全删。

毛病五：结尾喊口号，今天过得真快，下次还要来，小溪我爱你。三个感叹号一个都不留。改法是停在一个画面上：回家上车前，我把装虾的瓶子倒回溪里，看它们一只只钻进石缝。然后直接结束，不加评论。读者记住那个瓶子倒过来的瞬间，快乐就成立了。

五个毛病按顺序自查一遍，每改一处都在原文上划掉旧句、写上新的，别只在脑子里过。改完再读出声，读到哪句舌头打结、自己都觉得假，那句就是下一个要改的。400字的作文，改五句比重写一遍快，也好得多。

Five Common Mistakes in Stream Essays: Check and Fix One Sentence at a Time

Mistake one: the essay runs from leaving home to coming back, one line per event, turning into a running account. Delete the three lines about leaving, arriving, and returning, and start from the moment you reach the stream, compressing the walk into half a sentence: twenty minutes on the road, and my shoes were baking hot. An essay is a chosen half day, not the ledger of a full one. The self-check is simple: count the time words, and if there are more than four, start cutting.

Mistake two: adjectives stacked in a row, the soft emerald willow branches sway gently, extremely beautiful and moving. A sentence like this is forgotten the moment it is read. The fix is a one-for-three trade: delete two adjectives and add one action plus one sensation, a willow branch brushing my arm, slightly itchy, like the graze of a dog ear. Build comparisons from your own life, not from someone else book of good phrases.

Mistake three: there is no I in the whole essay, only water and scenery, like a landscape photograph. Check each scene: what am I doing in this paragraph? In the willow paragraph I am reaching for a branch, in the shrimp paragraph I am turning stones, in the flower paragraph I am squatting and choosing. Any paragraph where you cannot find yourself needs one action of yours inserted.

Mistake four: the shrimps turn into a biology note, the shrimp belongs to the arthropods, its body divides into cephalothorax and abdomen. In an essay, an animal is only what your eyes saw: how long the feelers are, what color, which way it flees when startled, how it swims once bottled. Keep at most one piece of knowledge if it is truly interesting, for instance that a startled shrimp flicks backward with its tail rather than swimming forward, and delete the rest.

Mistake five: the ending shouts slogans, how fast the day went, I will come again next time, I love this stream. Keep none of the three exclamation marks. The fix is to stop on one image: before getting into the car, I pour the jar of shrimps back into the stream and watch them dart one by one into the cracks between stones. Then end, with no comment. Once the reader remembers that upended jar, the happiness is established on its own.

Run through the five mistakes in order, and for each fix cross out the old sentence on the page and write the new one, instead of only thinking it over. Then read the draft aloud; wherever your tongue stumbles and the sentence feels false to you is the next one to fix. For a four hundred word essay, revising five sentences is faster than rewriting the whole thing, and far better.