

ACCEPTING FEEDBACK

When you review your reader's comments, **focus on those that you can apply to your next project.**

1. Look for a pattern of errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar. If you see one, you know what to work on.
2. If your reader says you made factual errors, check your notes: Did you take bad notes or misreport them? Were you misled by an unreliable source? Whatever you find, you know what to do in your next project.
3. If your reader reports only her judgments of your writing, look for what causes them. If she says your writing is choppy, dense, or awkward, check your sentences. If she says it's disorganized or wandering, check it against the guide to revising your draft. You won't always find what caused the complaints, but when you do you'll know what to work on next time.

Next, **talk with your readers.** Complete these tasks before you do so:

1. If your reader marked up spelling and grammar mistakes, correct those errors.
2. Jot down your responses after any substantive comments about your argument to show that you've read them closely.

If your reader is your teacher:

1. Don't complain about your grade. Be clear that you want to understand the comments so that you can do better next time.
2. Focus on those comments that address the most important issues, like your paper's argument and organization. Rehearse your questions so they seem amiable.
3. Don't ask, "What didn't you like?" but "Where did I go wrong and how would I fix it?"