Testing your text

Asking questions is a good way to find out if you are getting your message over to your reader.

- Why does this matter? – is a good basic question to ask.

To check the flow of your argument or line of reasoning you can test pieces of your text by evaluating them against criteria or questions.

- You can test a sentence or two, a paragraph or longer sections.

Test a paragraph

Is the main point or idea clear?

Is it convincing?

Does it introduce the main point or key idea?

Is it supported by evidence?

Does the last line bring it all together?

Test links between parts

Check the answers to these two key questions are clear to your reader.

- Look at the transitions between the parts too.
- You may need to move some parts of your text and rewrite the transitions.

Test for quality

Is it misleading in any way?

Does this advance the argument?

Does it drift from the main point?

Is there too much unimportant detail or description?

Does it repeat something?

Can you reduce or reuse?

Label and keep your cuts.

Just in case!

Be ruthless and remove writing that dilutes the overall quality.