

**Overarching Question:** What is my story?

**Overarching Challenge:** Use the format of your choice to effectively tell your story.

**Lesson Question:** How can you use feedback to improve your writing?

**Lesson Challenge:** Improve your writing using suggestions and feedback from other people.

**Lesson Summary:** You've done some writing and have shared it with a friend or given it to a teacher, and they've given you suggestions and feedback on how it could be improved. What will you do now? Will you redo the assignment? Or maybe just ignore the feedback? How can you use comments and feedback from other people to improve your writing? In this lesson, you'll improve your writing using suggestions and feedback from other people.

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**Big Idea:** Using feedback to improve your writing can help you more effectively tell your story.

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**Lesson Question:** How can you use feedback to improve your writing?

**Lesson Challenge:** Improve your writing using suggestions and feedback from other people.

## Start Your Thinking

You've done some writing and have shared it with a friend or given it to a teacher, and they've given you suggestions and feedback on how it could be improved. What will you do now? Will you redo the assignment? Or maybe just ignore the feedback? How can you use comments and feedback from other people to improve your writing?

Imagine that a friend has asked you to help them with a writing assignment. Below is your friend's writing, and the feedback they received. What advice would you give your friend?

### Student Paragraph

i think that older people shuld be more concerned about climate chnage. I mean, its already changing the land and the animals by my community and did you know that snowy owls are my favourite bird? if we dont do something pretty soon we won't be able to do the outdoor winter stuff that we like and our community and way of life will be changed.

### Feedback From the Teacher

You've clearly expressed your thoughts on climate change. There are a few things that you could do to improve your paragraph. Remember that all ideas in a paragraph should be related. See if you can add more supporting detail, and remember to use "juicy" words. Be sure to carefully check the spelling of all words and that proper punctuation is used in all sentences.

Using the feedback as a guide, what are the three most important changes that your friend could make?

1.

2.

3.



### Think About the Lesson Challenge

In this lesson, you'll improve your writing using suggestions and feedback from other people. Before moving on to the next part of the lesson, pause and think about a time you have received feedback. It may have been in school, at home, when playing sports, at a job, or on the land. How did you react to the feedback? What do you think you did well? What could you have done better?

You can also ask another student, a teacher, a friend, a relative, a Knowledge Keeper, or an Elder to share their own experiences.



Ways I Reacted to Feedback	
Things I Did Well	Things I Could Have Done Better

## Grow Your Thinking

In the next part of this lesson, you'll practise using feedback and suggestions to improve your writing.

It can be a little scary to read other people's thoughts about your writing, especially if you've worked hard on the writing and if the topic is something that you care about. It's important to remember that feedback and suggestions can be used to improve your writing. Any form of writing, even short messages, can be improved with some polishing. After all, even the very best writers practise and revise their work!

Fortunately, feedback usually focuses on three general areas or categories of writing. You can use the categories to organize suggestions from the feedback and what you might do to improve your writing. The feedback you receive will usually focus on three areas of writing:

- content
- style
- readability

### BUILDING MY TOOLBOX

**How can you decide what feedback suggestions are important? How can you use the feedback and suggestions to improve your writing? Important feedback will focus on three important areas:**

#### ✓ Content

- Are all my ideas related to the main idea?
- Are there ideas or details that I can add to make my message clearer?
- Are there ideas or details that I can take out to make my message clearer?

#### ✓ Style

- Does my format (e.g., IM, email, letter), match my audience and purpose?
- Does my choice of words match my format?

✓ **Readability:** Following the basic rules of writing, or the mechanics, helps improve the readability of your writing. When you're using feedback to improve your writing, be sure to check:

- capitalization
- punctuation
- spelling
- grammar
- parts of speech
- sentence structure
- paragraph structure

**Lesson Question:** How can you use feedback to improve your writing?

When asked to compare their community and a bigger city, here's what a student wrote and the feedback that they received on their writing:

Student Paragraph	Feedback From the Teacher
<p>My community is small and this is a big city. But here is not very clean. In my community you could smell the forest and lakes but here is not. This city have big buildings and in my city there small. Here is a big city and my city small only 3,000 people. Here is many bigger houses and stuff. and many more cars? People in my town are more friendlie. And once I even saw a bear and a wolverine! I like bears. But I worry about climate change.</p>	<p>There are a few things that you could do to improve the comparison of your community with the city. Remember that all the ideas in a paragraph should be related. For example, is the sentence "But I worry about climate change" related to the main idea of the paragraph? Also, remember that using specific details helps your reader "see" what you're trying to describe. Are there any details that you could add to help your reader see your community? For example, could you describe some of the buildings in your community?</p>

Review the feedback and see if you can find more suggestions about how the **content** of the student's paragraph might be improved. Note your ideas in the chart below, along with any ideas for how the writing might be improved. An example has been done for you.

Using Feedback to Improve Your Writing		
Area	Suggestions From the Feedback	How can I use the feedback to improve my writing?
<p><b>Content</b></p> <p>Areas to check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are all my ideas related to the main idea?</li> <li>• Are there ideas or details that I can add to make my message clearer?</li> <li>• Are there ideas or details that I can take out to make my message clearer?</li> </ul>	<p><b>General suggestions:</b></p> <p><i>"Remember that all the ideas in a paragraph should be related."</i></p>	<p><b>General improvements:</b></p> <p><i>Review the ideas in the paragraph and make sure they all are related to comparing my community and a city.</i></p>
	<p><b>Specific suggestions:</b></p> <p><i>For example, could you describe some of the buildings in your community?</i></p>	<p><b>Specific improvements:</b></p> <p><i>Add a description of some of the buildings in my community, like the new school or the community centre.</i></p>

**Lesson Question:** How can you use feedback to improve your writing?

Let's use the same piece of writing to examine how feedback might be used to improve the style of a piece of writing.

**Student Paragraph**

My community is small and this is a big city. But here is not very clean. In my community you could smell the forest and lakes but here is not. This city have big buildings and in my city there small. Here is a big city and my city small only 3,000 people. Here is many bigger houses and stuff. and many more cars? People in my town are more friendlie. And once I even saw a bear and a wolverine! I like bears. But I worry about climate change.

**Feedback From the Teacher**

There are a few things that you could do to improve the comparison of your community and the city. Remember that the words that we choose should support or match the purpose of the writing and the audience. Do all of the words that you help to accurately compare and describe your community? For example, could you think of a more descriptive word to use instead of "stuff"? You can also use your words to create a tone or feeling for your writing. What do you want the writer to feel when they you're your paragraph? What words could you use to create this feeling?

Review the feedback and see if you can find more suggestions about how the **style** of the student's paragraph might be improved. Note your ideas in the chart below, along with any ideas for how the writing might be improved. An example has been done for you.

**Using Feedback to Improve Your Writing**

Area	Suggestions From the Feedback	How can I use the feedback to improve my writing?
<b>Style</b> Areas to check: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does my format (e.g., IM, email, letter), match my audience and purpose?</li> <li>• Does my choice of words match my format?</li> <li>• Does my choice of words match the tone I want to create?</li> </ul>	<b>General suggestions:</b> <i>Words should support or match the purpose of the writing and the audience</i>	<b>General improvements:</b> <i>Make sure that all the words help compare my community and the city</i>
	<b>Specific suggestions:</b>	<b>Specific improvements:</b>

**Lesson Question:** How can you use feedback to improve your writing?

Let's use the same piece of writing one last time to examine how some more feedback might be used to improve readability.

**Student Paragraph**

My community is small and this is a big city. But here is not very clean. In my community you could smell the forest and lakes but here is not. This city have big buildings and in my city there small. Here is a big city and my city its small only 3,000 people. Here is many bigger houses and stuff. and many more cars? People in my town are more friendlie. And once I even saw a bear and a wolverine! I like bears. But I worry about climate change.

**Feedback From the Teacher**

It's important to remember to take time to check your writing for spelling and punctuation mistakes that might make it harder for the reader to understand your ideas. Be sure that you use full sentences, not fragments or parts of sentences. For example, the sentence "But here is not very clean" is part of a sentence. Could you combine it with another sentence or make it into a complete sentence? It's also important to watch out for words that sound the same but have different meanings. For example, which should be used: its or it's? Whenever you write a sentence, double check it to make sure that it starts with a capital letter and ends with the correct punctuation.

Review the feedback and see if you can find more suggestions about how the **readability** of the student's paragraph might be improved. Note your ideas in the chart below, along with any ideas for how the writing might be improved. An example has been done for you.

**Using Feedback to Improve Your Writing**

Area	Suggestions From the Feedback	How can I use the feedback to improve my writing?
<b>Readability</b> Areas to check: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• capitalization</li> <li>• punctuation</li> <li>• spelling</li> <li>• grammar</li> <li>• parts of speech</li> <li>• sentence structure</li> <li>• paragraph structure</li> </ul>	<b>General suggestions:</b>  <b>Words should support or match the purpose of the writing and the audience</b>	<b>General improvements:</b>  <b>Make sure that all the words help compare my community and the city</b>
	<b>Specific suggestions:</b>  <b>Check to see which should be used: its or it's</b>	<b>Specific improvements:</b>  <b>Change its to it's</b>

**Practise the Strategy**

You can also use this thinking strategy to help you want to edit and improve the content, style, or readability of your writing.

To practise using feedback, read the following piece of writing and the feedback. Then use the thinking strategy on page 9 to organize the feedback and decide how you might improve the writing.

**Assignment 1: In a short paragraph, describe the three actions that would do the most to prevent climate change.**

As we all know climate Change has become a major threat to our Planet Earth. It is our duty to look towards it and act. The main reason responsible, is pollution. To stop Climate change we should recycle and reuse. We should be careful in using water and other bad things. We should avoid using motorvechical if we can walk on foot or we can use bycycle. We should not smoke because it cause pollution. In my community these pollution is hurting the animals and changing the seasons. So these are some actions that are to be taken to control global warming and make our mother earth healthy once again.

**Feedback**

Make sure that all your ideas are related to the main idea of the paragraph. For example, some sentences describe effects of climate change. Perhaps these could be revised to describe actions. Look for places where you can add more specific details that support your main ideas. Be sure to carefully check the spelling of all words and that proper punctuation is used in all sentences. Remember to take time to check your writing for spelling and punctuation mistakes.





## Reflect on Your Thinking

### Think About the Lesson Challenge

Think back to the beginning of this lesson and what you've learned about using feedback to improve your writing. What advice would you now give to your friend about improving their writing?

#### Student Paragraph

i think that older people shuld be more concerned about climate chnage. I mean, its already changing the land and the animals by my community and did you know that snowy owls are my favourite bird? if we dont do something pretty soon we won't be able to do the outdoor winter stuff that we like and our community and way of life will be changed.

#### Feedback

You've clearly expressed your thoughts on climate change. There are a few things that you could do to improve your paragraph. Remember that all ideas in a paragraph should be related. See if you can add more supporting detail, and remember to use "juicy" words. Be sure to carefully check the spelling of all words and that proper punctuation is used in all sentences.



#### What are the three most important changes that your friend could make?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



#### Can you think of other situations or times when you could use this thinking strategy?

### Think About the Overarching Challenge

Remember our overarching question: What is my story? After you've finished the English lessons, you'll select the format of your choice to tell your story.



#### How might the tools in this lesson help me tell my story?

