

First drafts unacceptable

Selling Your Work · By Simon Townsend · 1 min read

A "draft" is a first or preliminary form of any writing, subject to revision and copying. If a student sends me a "first draft", does that mean I'll be receiving another draft, and a 6th and 10th draft . . . ?? I HATE drafts. You might as well send me a bus ticket and tell me this was the ticket that took you to an interview with Mr So-and-So?. I couldn't care less. I wish the course would not talk about students doing "first drafts". You wouldn't send a first draft to an editor you're trying to impress. Please don't send me any incomplete, unpolished work. I want to see only your best work, in finished, publishable form.

I want to see it properly laid out with all the extras attended to (pages numbered correctly, word-count at the top, intended publication at the top, your byline, no spelling errors, one staple and so on). Hope I don't sound like a Grumpy Old Man!!! Thanks?.

Reprinted from The Wonderful World of Journalism. Written in the spirit of Simon Townsend's journalism craft advice. Visit simontownsendjournalist.com for the full archive.