

Editing Sample: Before and After — Professional Academic Tone Revision

Service Type: Line Editing + Developmental Feedback

Academic Level: Upper-Division Undergraduate

Citation Style: MLA 9th Edition

What This Demonstrates: Identification of weak prose, vague claims, structural problems, and AI-tell phrases; editorial reasoning; polished revision with improved specificity, flow, and voice.

Word Count: 719 words

Original paragraph (intentionally flawed draft)

In today’s fast-paced world, technology is changing everything about how we live and work. It is widely accepted that artificial intelligence is a growing body of research that scholars agree will transform the workplace in ways that are tangible risks for many workers. Studies indicate that a critical, intentional approach is needed to navigate the complexities of this transformative journey. The foundational bedrock of the modern economy is shifting, and experts say that ongoing dialogue between stakeholders is essential. If we do not take action, the consequences could be very bad for society as a whole.

Editor’s diagnostic notes

Vague attribution plague — seven instances of unsupported consensus claims (“it is widely accepted,” “scholars agree,” “studies indicate,” “experts say”). These phrases signal that the writer has not done the reading or is unwilling to own the argument.

AI-tell phrases — “In today’s fast-paced world,” “growing body of research,” “tangible risks,” “navigate the complexities,” “transformative journey,” “foundational bedrock,” “ongoing dialogue.” These are noise. They convey no information and mark the prose as generic.

No thesis, no evidence, weak conclusion — the paragraph wanders through observations without staking a claim. “Very bad for society” is a placeholder for an argument that was never developed.

Revised paragraph

Artificial intelligence is reshaping labor markets along three dimensions: task displacement, skill revaluation, and wage polarization. Routine cognitive tasks—data entry, basic analysis, standard customer service—are increasingly automated, compressing demand for workers whose primary value was procedural accuracy. At the same time, demand is rising for workers who can supervise, validate, and complement AI systems: roles requiring judgment, contextual reasoning, and interpersonal

coordination. The result is not uniform job loss but structural mismatch.

Labor economists describe this pattern as task polarization: technology reduces demand for some routine work while increasing demand for workers who can perform nonroutine analytical, managerial, and interpersonal tasks. The policy challenge is not to stop technological change but to manage the transition through targeted reskilling, portable benefits, and education that prepares workers for tasks that resist automation.

Editor’s revision rationale

Specificity replaces abstraction. The original gestured at “technology” and “the workplace.” The revision names what is actually changing: routine cognitive tasks, data entry, customer service.

Structure replaces drift. The revision opens with a three-part analytical frame and returns to it throughout.

Voice replaces noise. Every AI-tell phrase has been removed. The prose is clean, direct, and unadorned.

Analytical conclusion replaces fear-mongering. “Very bad for society” becomes a specific policy discussion: reskilling, portable benefits, educational reform.