**Self-Editing Essay Directions**

Complete the following tasks directly on your essay.

1. Underline all of the dead verbs. (Dead Verbs: is, are, am, have, had, has, be, been, was, look, were, take, took, went, go, ran, run, make, do, did, gone, came, come.)
2. Circle all of the “that(s)”.
3. Put a square around all of the personal pronouns (you, I, we, us.)
4. Highlight all of the commas.
5. Examine all of your commas and make sure they are serving a purpose and follow proper comma usage.
6. Rewrite all of the sentences containing dead verbs, unnecessary “that(s)”, and personal pronouns above the original sentence. Refer to your notes for suggestions.

**For example:**

**Original Sentence**:

As you can see, George had to kill Lenny that is the ultimate example of George being loyal to Lenny.

**Edited Sentence:**

In chapter six, George kills Lenny in the ultimate act of friendship.