

## Worksheet 10: Diction

**Corresponding Readings:** Chapter 15 (384-394) in *The Copyeditor's Handbook* and Donald Hall's "The Insides of Words" located on our schedule.

**Key Concepts:** Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*, Level of Diction, Jargon, Clichés, Euphemisms

### Assignment:

1. This week we are going to work on medium-level copyediting. In addition to editing for punctuation, spelling, capitalization, etc., you will look closely at the writer's diction and point out any problematic wording. However, because you are being asked to do medium-level copyediting, you will also supply suggested revisions to problematic wording. In these instances, it is best to provide suggestions as a query: i.e. "Q1: Check the tone here. Consider "album" over "opuscule." Keep in mind that young editors tend to over-edit. You should not scrutinize over every word in every sentence. Rather, use your ear and only point out passages that "stick out like a sore thumb."

As always, you can access the work to-be-edited on our schedule.

**Scenario:** You are a copyeditor for *Brevity: A Journal of Concise Literary Nonfiction*. *Brevity* is a well-established online literary journal that publishes brief essays (750 words or less). As the Copy Editor, you are expected to review and comment on all work before it goes to publication. The Editor, Dinty W. Moore, has recently sent you Katelyn Hemmeke's essay, "What Are You" and has asked that you review it for an upcoming issue, paying particular attention to some of the wording. According to Moore, "there is some over-writing here that we can easily clean up." The editor likes to see revisions in hard copy so make sure you print it out and use hand-marked symbols and queries. Note there may also be additional errors in punctuation, capitalization, etc.