Purpose: Upon completion of this activity, students will understand how to use underlining/italics. This DLA should take approximately 30 to 45 minutes to complete.

Step 1: Go to the front desk and check out The Bedford Guide for College Writers, and read the section on italics. Or, you can consult your own textbook if it contains an in-depth section on italicizing rules.

Step 2: Now that you have reviewed italicizing rules, do the activity below. If an item needs to be italicized, underline it. If an item is italicized and should not be, circle it. Some items might be correctly italicized.

Original: Of Hitchcock’s movies, Psycho is the scariest.

Correction: Of Hitchcock’s movies, Psycho is the scariest.

1. Of the many Vietnam veterans who are writers, Oliver Stone is perhaps the most famous for writing and directing the films Platoon and Born on the Fourth of July.

2. Tim O’Brien has written short stories for Esquire, GQ, and Massachusetts Review.

3. Going After Cacciato is O’Brien’s dreamlike novel about the horrors of combat.

4. The word Vietnam is technically two words (Viet and Nam), but most American writers spell it as one word.

5. American writers use words or phrases borrowed from Vietnamese, such as di di mau (which means “go quickly”) or dinky dau (“crazy”).


7. Caputo’s book was made into a television movie, also titled A Rumor of War.

8. David Rabe’s plays—including The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel, Streamers, and Sticks and Bones—depict the effects of the war not only on the soldiers but on their families.

9. Called the poet laureate of the Vietnam War, Steve Mason has published two collections of poems: Johnny’s Song and Warrior for Peace.


Step 3: Take your finished activity to a WRC instructor or tutor on duty, go over your answers, and make whatever changes are necessary. Ask the instructor to fill in the section below.

_____________________________   _________________________   ____________
instructor’s name                instructor’s signature          date