Revision and Editing Strategies

MSUB WRITING CENTER IN THE ASC

WITH HELP FROM KENNEDY, KENNEDY & MUTH (2017)
What is revision?

“Revision means ‘seeing again’ – discovering again, conceiving again, shaping again. It may occur at any and all stages of the writing process, and most writers do a lot of it” (Kennedy, Kennedy & Muth, 2017, p. 442).
Where in the... Writing Process are We?

- Brainstorm
- Research
- Draft
- Get feedback
- Revise
- Research
- Draft
- Get feedback
- Revise
- Submit
- Get feedback

Diagram:

- Brainstorm
- Research
- Draft
- Get feedback
- Revise
- Feedback
- Revise
- Research
- Draft
- Get feedback
Macro Revision: Paper- and Paragraph-Level Changes

- Purpose: Have you refined what you want to accomplish?
- Thesis: Could you state your main point more accurately?
- Audience: Should you address your readers differently?
- Structure: Should you reorganize any part of your writing?
- Support: Do you need to add, drop, or rework your support?
Macro-Specific Revision Strategies

01 Condense your draft into an outline to check for structure, clarity, and consistency.

02 Use PIE or a similar paragraph structure framework to check for consistent structure and incorporation of supporting evidence.

03 Consider writing the body of the essay first, then adding the introduction and conclusion. Have a working thesis statement, but assemble the evidence to support it before finalizing the thesis statement.
Micro Revision: Sentence- and Word-Level Changes

- Emphasis: Can you position your ideas more effectively?
- Conciseness: Can you spot extra words that you might cut?
- Clarity: Can you make any sentences and words clearer?
Micro-Specific Revision Strategies

1. Read your paper out loud or backwards
2. Have someone read the paper to you or have the computer read it to you
3. Download the Read & Write software for technology-assisted writing and reading support
4. Prioritize 1-3 usage errors to focus on. Communicate with your instructor for support with this approach
More Revision Strategies

- Give yourself time
- Revise in stages – make large-scale changes before small-scale changes
- Follow the Revision Checklist Handouts
- Get feedback from a peer, your instructor, and the Writing Center
- Check everything against your assignment prompt and rubric
Need Help with Revision or Anything Else Writing-Related?

City College ASC – Tech Building
- 406-247-3022
- M-F 8am-5pm

University Campus ASC – Student Union Building
- 406-657-1641
- M-Th 8am-5pm; F 8am-5pm

Writing Services
- Drop-in support available at both campuses
- Online appointments and email consultations
- Email: writingcenter@msubillings.edu

To schedule an appointment and for more information, visit: www.msubillings.edu/asc/