The Writing Center @ EOU

Revising Your Paper

Remove yourself from your writing.

After you finish your draft, take a break, so you can come back and view your paper objectively. From an uninformed reader's perspective, do all of the points you discuss make sense? Additionally, check to see if your argument is as strong and clear now as you thought it was during the initial drafting process.

Revision should be content driven.

At this point in the writing process, do not be afraid to change entire sections of your paper. While revising, you are examining the entire paper and its effectiveness. Sometimes an entire paragraph may not fit your argument, so you should either change it or remove it. Likewise, check your argument as a whole and verify that it still adequately addresses your prompt.

Review how you supported your claims.

Within each paragraph, do you have evidence that sufficiently supports your claims? Make sure the connection between your source and your argument is clear and that you fully explain the source's importance. If you find you have not fully supported you claims, consider reorganizing and expanding on your ideas.

Tips for Revising

- Don't be afraid to return to earlier stages of the writing process. If need be, don't hesitate to go back and do more research or brainstorming before making changes to your draft.

- Consider making a reverse or function outline. As you read through your draft, identify your thesis and write down a sentence explaining the main idea of each of your paragraphs. This can help you see if you remained on topic supported your thesis throughout your paper

- Don't get too attached to your writing. The more willing to change you are, the more effective you will be able to revise.

- Revision is not rewording; leave that for editing. While revising, try to focus solely on the bigger picture of your paper.

- Like with editing and proofreading, slow down and take your time revising.

References: Writing Center at UNC-Chapel Hill, Purdue Online Writing Lab, University of Minnesota Center for Writing