
“Do I Really Need Revision?”



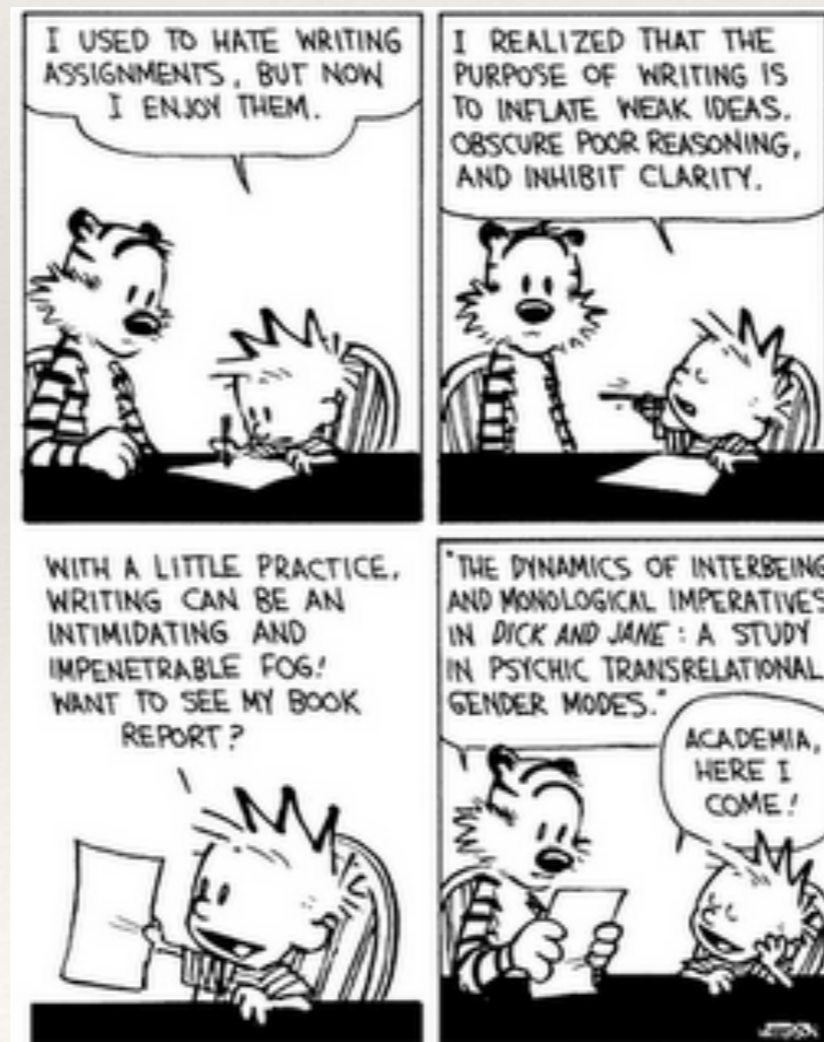
Sometimes revising
can seem frustrating

Make sure to give yourself
time, make a plan, and see it
through.

Revising

- ❖ Revising is finding & correcting problems with *content*, changing the ideas in your writing to make them clearer, stronger, and more convincing.
- ❖ Revising looks at the “Big Picture”—the Idea level.

(Your goal is to make your writing as clear as possible, so don't be like Calvin)



Revising Strategies

❖ **1. Topic and Unity**

- ❖ Is there a clear thesis that encompasses all the main points made in the essay?
- ❖ Does each paragraph have one main point that supports the thesis?
- ❖ Does each sentence in each body paragraph give an example and further explain the main point?

❖ **2. Detail and support**

- ❖ Does each body paragraph contain strong/specific examples?
- ❖ Is each example followed by at least one supporting detail and further explanation?

❖ **3. Coherence**

- ❖ Are all points connect to form a whole?
- ❖ Are transitions used to move from one idea to the next?

(One way to do this step is to do a graphic organizer in reverse)

Editing

- ❖ Editing is finding and correcting problems with grammar, style, word choice & usage, and punctuation.
- ❖ Editing focuses on the “Little Picture”—Word level.
- ❖ **EDITING STRATEGIES:** Look for one issue at a time. If you know you tend to write sentence fragments, check for that first. Then check for spelling errors, or other issues.

Editing for Style

- ❖ Remember that editing is not just for grammar errors, but also for style.
- ❖ Academic papers need to be written in a **formal voice**.
- ❖ Why do we use formal writing in college?

We Use Formal Writing...

- ❖ To be specific
- ❖ To be clear
- ❖ To provide reasons and evidence
- ❖ To convince others
- ❖ To demonstrate understanding
- ❖ To show your knowledge of a topic

There are 5 common qualities you can check for in order to make informal writing formal

1. Identify any slang or conversational words/phrases

Informal: you may use **slang** or **conversational** language.

Formal: you must **avoid** **slang** or **conversational** language.

- Slang

- *chill* – relaxed, calming
- *sketchy* – nerving, unusual
- *rad* – interesting, empowering

- Conversational phrases

- *back in the day* – previously
- *work like a dog* – hard working
- *put on blast* – made public

2. Make any vague or or imprecise words clear

Informal: You may use **imprecise (vague)** words

Formal: You must **avoid imprecise (vague)** words

- Imprecise: *things, stuff*
- Precise: *reasons, causes, aspects, concerns*

- Vague words: *good, like, society*
- Specific words: *flavorful, for example, American society*

3. Look for abbreviations, contractions, and hesitation fillers

Informal: May use **abbreviations, contractions, and hesitation fillers.**

Formal: **Avoid abbreviations, contractions and hesitation fillers.**

- Abbreviation examples: TV, BTW, LOL, ect.
- Contraction examples: it's, they're, can't, won't.
- Hesitation fillers: Well, like, hmmm, let me think...

4. Check for a consistent voice

Informal: May use second person pronouns- you, your.

*Now I will tell you what happened to me last year.

Formal: **Avoids** second person pronouns – uses first or second person.

*My experience in Bali is one that I will never forget.

5. Check for grammatical errors

Informal: You may use sentence fragments, or other similar errors.

Formal: You must **avoid** grammatical errors and make sure sentences are well structured.

- Grammar errors: Sentence fragments, typos (which stands for “typographical errors”), run-on sentences, and so forth...

Proofreading: Final Check

- ❖ Take a break before proof reading.
- ❖ Do not rush it.
- ❖ Read your essay aloud.
- ❖ Read your essay slowly.
- ❖ Ask a tutor or classmate to look over any sections you just aren't sure about.

Follow These Steps

1. Revise

- Does your thesis answer the prompt and express your main idea as clearly as possible?
- Do your paragraphs refer back to your thesis?
- Do your examples in each paragraph support the main idea, and are they the best piece of evidence for your argument?

2. Edit

- Convert any informal wording/sentences into formal voice.
- Are there any sentences that are unclear? Can you state them in a more concise way?
- Are there any grammatical errors?

3. Proofread

- Read through your essay one more time from top to bottom.

(You can ask a tutor for help during any of these steps)