

Important Points About Revision

Many successful writers and teachers will tell you that good writing comes from strong revision. This means re-seeing your document and changing, altering, and cutting aspects of your piece to make the document stronger, leaner, and more rhetorically effective. Strong revision strategies are crucial to not only producing a strong piece of writing but also becoming a successful writer.

With the importance of revision in mind, here are three categories that you should consider as you revise your writing:

Deep Revision

Usually the first stage of revision where the author cuts, adds, or completely rewrites a sentence, paragraph, or idea. Some examples of deep revision are listed below.

- Adding and developing details, examples, and support
- Cutting or deleting unhelpful details, examples, or support
- Creating new paragraphs
- Cutting whole sections
- Changing overall focus and purpose of the document
- Drafting a new introduction
- Drafting new support paragraphs
- Drafting a new conclusion
- Changing your thesis/organizing idea, thereby changing the focus of the paper
- Developing more examples
- Creating more descriptive, concrete, and vivid details

Middle Revision

Typically done after deep revision and before surface editing, middle revision works to make the points of the document stronger and more clear through the following points.

- Reorganization of paragraphs or ideas
- Making a thesis more assertive or reflective of the whole paper
- Adding specific and concrete details to paragraphs
- Addressing the audience of the document more directly and effectively
- Cutting unnecessary details
- Developing greater clarity within specific sentences or passages
- Editing for more sentence variety—varied lengths and types of sentences

Surface Editing

This is what most people think of when they hear the word editing. Surface editing takes care of all the grammatical and technical mistakes.

- Proofreading for grammatical correctness
- Reconsidering the "right words" in specific sentences
- Combining sentences
- Cutting unnecessary words
- Inserting necessary words

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