

Revision Guide

Student Resource

Peer revision is a way for you to get input from someone else on the strengths and weaknesses of your essay. Someone else can often see problems that you can't. The following activity is a guide for peer revision. It focuses on parts of your essay that you may not have thought of as you wrote it. These are elements that can strengthen both the content and the style of your essay.

Read your essay with your revision partner. Discuss each of the questions below and fill out the revision guide. Use your responses to make revisions for your final draft.

1. **Thesis Statement**

What is the subject of the thesis statement? _____

How does the thesis statement address the concrete task of the prompt? _____

How does the thesis statement address the abstract task of the prompt? _____

2. Is the essay focused? Does it include words throughout that refer to the ideas in the thesis?

Underline them.

3. Are there concrete details (specific textual references that are usually enclosed in quotation marks)?

Highlight them.

4. Are ideas fully developed? Do you need to add commentary (analysis)? If you need to, use the focused questioning technique.

1) Highlight the phrases or clauses that can be elaborated on.

2) Create a question about the highlighted portion of the sentence.

3) Answer the question you just wrote.

4) Tie the answer to the topic sentence.

5. **Sentence Beginnings**: In the chart below, write the first four words of every sentence. What patterns, if any, do you see emerging in the writing? If you see the same type of sentence beginning, such as always starting with the subject, then use the Sentence Variation Models list to vary the beginnings of your sentences.

Sentence Number	First four words	Notes about patterns
1		
2		
3		
4		

Sentence Number	First four words	Notes about patterns
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

6. **Verbs:** Find the **predicate** of each **independent clause** and write the verb in the chart below. Look for two things: Is the verb in present tense? Is it an action verb? If not, can the clause be rewritten to eliminate passive voice and use an action verb? (Use the Marker Verbs list as a resource.)

Sentence Number	Verb	Present tense? If not, write the verb in present tense.	Active verb? If not, how can it be changed?
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

7. Are there any awkward or poorly worded sentences that need to be corrected? If so, help your partner rewrite them.

Essay peer edited by _____