

REVISION STRATEGIES

ANTHROPOLOGY WRITING LAB



What is revision?

Revision is a process of making significant structural or content changes to a piece of writing. It is often confused with editing, which involves correcting spelling and grammar. Revising allows you to critically engage with your first draft, and help it reach its true potential. What is your usual revision process?



First Pass:

When beginning revision, it's important to first absorb what you have already done. Have you tried...

Letting it rest?

Try leaving a writing piece alone after you initially finish it. Get up and walk around! Do another assignment or a relaxing activity. Then, return to your writing.

Reading it aloud?

Reading your work aloud confronts you with exactly what you wrote, nothing more, nothing less.

Mapping its structure?

Find the thesis/topic sentence for the piece and each section, alongside what evidence supports each point. Create a visual layout of how these ideas and evidence are arranged in the draft.

Second Glance:

Now it's time to implement your insights from the exercises above.

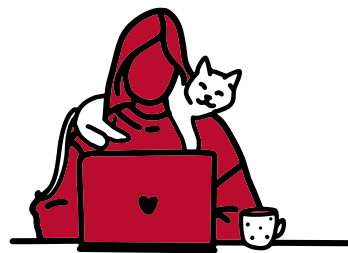
Rearrange...

Consider where you can make changes.

- Is this the best order for your ideas?
- Are your ideas supported with examples or evidence?
- Do you communicate directly to your audience why the topic is important, or what the biggest takeaway is?
- Does it answer the original prompt or question?

Rewrite...

It's okay to use ideas and even sentences from the first draft, but don't feel too tied to them. A first draft often helps you discover what you want to write about, this draft will be a thoughtful ordering of those ideas.



Final Look:

Once you have a new draft, remember to read it aloud one last time! Consider how the piece flows now. Clean up poor word choice or bad phrasing. For an extra set of eyes, ask a friend to read it aloud and give you their summary of the work. If it matches your desired message, then you are ready to turn it in.