

[MUSIC PLAYING]

INSTRUCTOR: Revising. When you revise, you work to improve your paper. In order to revise effectively, you need to review your paper yourself and, if possible, ask others to read it and give you feedback.

When you revise a first draft, try to focus on global issues-- purpose and audience, thesis and organization, and support. These concerns help you think about your paper as a whole, because they deal with the overall content of your paper. Small problems, such as grammar and punctuation, are usually dealt with in a later stage of revision, called editing. For now, let's look at global revision.

Your purpose and audience have been key factors in your writing since you were just exploring topics and narrowing your focus. When you revise, you want to confirm that your draft fulfills your purpose and meets the needs of your audience. This is a good time to reread the assignment your instructor gave you to make sure you have fulfilled all the requirements, including length, word count, document type, and so on.

Your thesis and organization are closely linked. A thesis statement provides the topic and direction of the paper. Your outline-- and ultimately, your paper's organization-- should follow the course set out by your thesis. If the organization of the paper deviates from the thesis promised, readers will be confused. Aim for a clear and well-organized connection from your thesis to your paper's content. In addition, be sure to open with a strong introduction that includes your thesis and close with a memorable conclusion.

Make sure you have included transitions to clarify the links between sentences and paragraphs. Within each paragraph, check to see that you have included a topic sentence and supporting evidence for the topic sentence. Keep in mind that the claims you make in your writing are only as strong as the support you provide for them. If your support is weak, strengthen it by adding more detail. If you find that

some of your support is irrelevant to your main point, delete it to avoid distracting or confusing your readers.

Remember, when you revise, you work to improve your paper by focusing on global issues such as purpose and audience, thesis and organization, and support.

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