

FIGURE 12.3 Flowchart for Revising a Narrative Essay

QUESTIONS

REVISION STRATEGIES

1. Highlight the sentence(s) that express the main point of your narrative. Is the main point clear?

NO

- Rework your thesis to make it more explicit.

YES

2. Write a brief sentence that summarizes the conflict of your narrative. Is the conflict clear? Is it directly related to the main point?

NO

- Add events and dialogue specific to the conflict.
- Rework your thesis to make it better relate to the conflict.

YES

3. Place an **X** by each important scene, person, or action. Is it clear how each relates to both the main point and the *conflict*?

NO

- Delete scenes, persons, or actions that don't help you make your main point or establish conflict.

YES

4. Place a checkmark **✓** by each descriptive word or phrase. Is each important scene, person, or action vividly described?

NO

- Brainstorm to discover more vivid details.
- Consider adding dialogue to bring people and events to life.

YES

5. Number the major events in the narrative in chronological order. Is the sequence of events clear? If you use foreshadowing or flashbacks, is it clear where you do so?

NO

- Look for gaps in the sequence, and add any missing events.
- Consider rearranging the events.
- Use transitions to clarify the sequence of events.

YES

6. Underline the topic sentence of each paragraph. Is each paragraph focused on a separate part of the action?

NO

- Be sure each paragraph has a topic sentence and supporting details. (See Chapter 7.)
- Consider combining closely related paragraphs.
- Split paragraphs that cover more than one event.

YES

7. Wavy-underline the dialogue. Does it sound realistic? Does it directly relate to the *conflict*?

NO

- Revise by telling someone what you want your dialogue to express. Record what you say.
- Eliminate dialogue that does not help you make your main point or add drama.

YES

8. Circle each personal pronoun and each verb. Do you use a consistent point of view and verb tense?

NO

- Check for places where your point of view shifts for no reason, and revise to make it consistent.
- Check for places where the tense changes for no reason, and revise to make it consistent.

YES

9. Look at your introduction and conclusion. Do they address each other and the main point? Does the conclusion resolve the *conflict*?

NO

- Revise your introduction and conclusion. (See pp. 000–00.)