

**FIGURE 14.3 Flowchart for Revising an Illustration Essay**

## QUESTIONS

1. **Highlight** your thesis statement. Place a ✓ by each example. Do your examples clearly support the generalization your thesis makes?

**YES**

2. Write a sentence describing your readers. ~~Cross out~~ any examples that won't appeal to them. Do you have enough examples left?

**YES**

## REVISION STRATEGIES

**NO**

- Revise your thesis, changing your generalization so that it fits your examples.

**NO**

- Brainstorm more appealing examples.
- Add examples that represent different aspects of or viewpoints on your topic.

**3.** Write a sentence stating the purpose of your essay. ~~Cross out~~ any examples that don't fulfill your purpose. Do you have enough examples left?

**NO**

- Brainstorm examples that are more appropriate to your purpose.
- Add some of these examples or consider cutting back and using one extended example.

**YES**

**4.** Reread each example you ✓'d. Is each one accurate, relevant, striking, representative, and specific? Are the examples varied?

**NO**

- Eliminate dull, irrelevant, or misleading examples.
- Brainstorm or conduct research to discover more effective examples.
- Add details to vague or misleading examples.
- Add facts, expert opinion, or statistics.

**YES**

**5.** Underline the topic sentence of each paragraph. Does each paragraph have a topic sentence? Does each topic sentence clearly make a point that the example(s) ✓'d in that paragraph illustrate?

**NO**

- Add a topic sentence or revise the existing one to clearly indicate the point each example or group of examples illustrates.
- Reorganize your essay, grouping examples according to the idea they illustrate.

**YES**

**6.** Outline your essay. [Bracket] each transition. Is your organization clear and effective?

**NO**

- Add transitions or use a different organizing strategy. (See Chapter 7.)

**YES**

**7.** Reread your introduction and conclusion. Is each effective?

**NO**

- Revise your introduction to prepare and engage readers and to provide background. Revise your conclusion so that it pulls together your ideas, reminds readers of your thesis, and creates a satisfying ending.