

**FIGURE 18.3 Flowchart for Revising an Extended Definition Essay**

## QUESTIONS

1. Highlight your thesis statement. Does it include a brief definition of the term? Does it indicate why your extended definition is useful, interesting, or important?

**YES**

2. Place ✓s beside the distinguishing characteristics of your definition. Do they make your term distinct from similar terms? Is each characteristic true in all cases?

**YES**

**NO**

## REVISION STRATEGIES

- Use the guidelines on pp. 431–32 to identify the class and distinguishing characteristics of your term, and incorporate a standard definition into your thesis.
- Ask yourself, Why is this definition worth reading about? Add your answer to your thesis.

**NO**

- Do additional research or prewriting to discover more characteristics and details you can add to the definition.
- Eliminate characteristics and details that limit the definition too much.

**3.** Write the name of the pattern(s) of development you used in your essay. Does each clearly connect your details and help explain the distinguishing characteristics of your term?

**NO**

- Review the list of patterns on pp. 432–33 and consider substituting or adding one or more of them to clarify your definition.

**YES**

**4.** Draw [brackets] around sections where you use negation or address misconceptions. Does each section eliminate possible misunderstandings? Are other misunderstandings possible?

**NO**

- Revise your explanation of what your term is not.
- Add facts or expert opinion to correct readers' mistaken notions about the term.

**YES**

**5.** Underline the topic sentence of each paragraph. Does each paragraph have a clear topic sentence and focus on a particular characteristic? Is each paragraph well developed?

**NO**

- Consider combining paragraphs that cover the same characteristic or splitting paragraphs that cover more than one.
- Add or revise topic sentences and supporting details (see Chapter 7).

**YES**

**6.** Reread your introduction and conclusion. Does the introduction provide necessary background information? Does your conclusion bring the essay to a satisfying close?

**NO**

- Add background information that sets a context for the term you are defining.
- Revise your introduction and conclusion so that they meet the guidelines presented in Chapter 7 (pp. 147–51).