

FIGURE 24.4 Flowchart for Revising a Research Paper

QUESTIONS

1. **Highlight** your thesis statement. Is it clear and specific? Is the assertion based on some of your own (and not just the sources') ideas about the subject?

NO

YES

2. **Underline** the topic sentence of each paragraph. Does each topic sentence make a point that supports your thesis?

NO

YES

3. **[Bracket]** the ideas that support each topic sentence. Are some of these your own ideas? Do you avoid strings of quotations, paraphrases, and summaries from sources?

NO

YES

4. Draw a **circle** around terms that are essential to your thesis or that your audience might not know. Is each defined?

NO

YES

REVISION STRATEGIES

- Delete your thesis statement. Then have a peer read the paper and tell you what he or she believes the thesis to be.
- Brainstorm about the main point you wish to make.
- Review the guidelines for writing a thesis in Chapter 6, pp. 122–24.

- Ask yourself, Would my paper be stronger if this point were eliminated? If so, eliminate the point.
- Revise any remaining topic sentence that does not support the thesis.

- Rewrite to focus more on your own ideas, using source material to support them.
- Delete source material where there is too much.

- Add definitions where necessary.
- Read the circled terms and definitions to a classmate and ask if he or she understands them.
- Ask the classmate to read your paper and circle any terms he or she doesn't understand.

5. Place a checkmark ✓ next to each idea that came from an outside source. Do you give credit to each source in an in-text citation?

NO

- Add in-text citations wherever you need them. Paraphrases, summaries, and quotations, whether from printed or online sources, all need in-text citations.

YES

6. Is it clear where information from each source (✓) begins and ends?

NO

- Add introductory attributions (p. 607).
- Vary the verbs you use and the placement of attributions to avoid ineffective repetition (p. 608).

YES

7. Draw a around your introduction and conclusion. Does the introduction provide a context for your research? Is the conclusion satisfying and relevant to your research?

NO

- Revise your introduction and conclusion to meet the guidelines in Chapter 7, pp. 147–50 and pp. 150–51.
- Review what the research suggests and then revise your conclusion, proposing an action or way of thinking that is appropriate in light of the research.