

## Questions to Ask When Revising a Paper:

- \*Does the writing have a clear sense of purpose?  
(Particularly Good: **Underline Your Main Point, Memory Draft. See also: Reverse Outline, 3x5 Note Card, Cubing**)
  
- \*Is my paper's main idea, or thesis, clearly stated early on (within the first paragraph, ideally)?  
(See: **Reverse Outline, Talk Your Paper, Underline Your Main Point**)
  
- \*Could I organize my ideas more logically (within a paragraph or among paragraphs)?  
(Particularly Good: **Reverse Outline and 3x5 Note Card. See also: Memory Draft, Read Out Loud**)
  
- \*Are the topic sentences clearly connected to my paper's main idea and do (most) topic sentences appear at the beginning of each paragraph? Put differently: could someone read only the first sentence of each paragraph and thereby get a good sense of what the paper is about?  
(Particularly Good: **3x5 Note Card. See also: Reverse Outline, Unpacking an Idea**)
  
- \*Do the sentences in each paragraph relate to that paragraph's topic sentence?  
(Particularly Good: **3x5 Note Card. See also: Unpacking an Idea**)
  
- \*Is there unnecessary repetition of certain points (an indication that the paper's organization should be tinkered with, overhauled, etc.)?  
(See: **Reverse Outline, Cubing, Read Out Loud**)
  
- \*Is there sufficient (but not excessive) use of texts, evidence, or data?  
(See: **Unpacking an Idea, Cubing, Talk Your Paper, Outside Reader**)
  
- \*Does my paper employ effective transitional words, phrases, and sentences?  
(See: **Outside Reader, Read Out Loud**)
  
- \*Are the sentences well-worded and well-constructed?  
(See: **Read Out Loud**)
  
- \*Should some sentences be combined (for the sake of clarity, to avoid choppiness, etc.)? Should others be broken into two or more sentences, so that distinct—even if also related—ideas receive proper emphasis?  
(See: **Read Out Loud, Outside Reader**)
  
- \*Is the language precise and appropriate to the writing context?  
(See: **Writing Between the Lines, Read Out Loud**)
  
- \*Is the style authentic and engaging?  
(See: **Talk Your Paper, Read Out Loud**)
  
- \*Have I rewritten the introduction in order to remove sentences that are not essential to the set-up of my argument? (Remove the “dawns of time” sentence and others of its type that do not help to introduce your topic.)  
(See: **Talk Your Paper, Underline Your Main Point, Memory Draft**)
  
- \*Have I addressed all of the questions (or parts of questions) in the assignment?  
(See: **Return to the Prompt**)