

Grade 7 Literacy

Week of November 16 – November 20

Lesson 5: Writer's Workshop – Revising

Revising is your chance to improve your first draft by adding, deleting, changing, and moving ideas around. You may need to revise your persuasive argument two or three times before you're fully satisfied with it.

As yourself these questions as you revise your work.

- Did I state my position clearly?
- Is my position evident throughout my argument?
- Are my opinions clear and do my facts support my opinions?
- Do my paragraphs flow well together?
- Do I stay on topic?
- Did I mention the counter-arguments? Did I prove why they are wrong or insignificant?
- Is my argument convincing?
- Does my information flow easily from one paragraph to another?

You should also revise your work to eliminate any errors in logic. A logical argument has to be reasonable and make sense. If yours isn't, then it won't be very persuasive.

Some common errors in logic include:

1. **Hasty Generalization** – This type of argument reaches a conclusion based on too little evidence or too few examples. For example, we might see one event and conclude that all similar events will have the same outcome. This isn't necessarily true. For example, a snowboarder might make a jump without falling, so we might conclude that the jump is safe for all snowboarders. The fact that the first snowboarder was an expert and had done the jump many times may not have been considered.
2. **Begging the Question** – This can happen when we insist that something is true but don't have proof. For example we might say, "Anyone can see that our basketball coach is incompetent, he should be fired immediately." This statement has no supporting evidence and the argument expects readers to start from the same point of view.
3. **Faulty Cause and Effect** – A common problem can come from thinking that one event causes another without enough evidence. Superstitions often come from this type of thinking. For example, a baseball player may always tweak his helmet or hit the plate a certain way before

swinging at the ball, believing that if he doesn't do this, he will miss. Similarly, a writer might conclude that one event causes another without enough evidence.

4. False Premise – This error happens when an argument starts with a wrong assumption. For example, you might say, "A mother bear will not attack to protect her cubs." If you move on from there in real life, you would likely discover that this premise is false.

5. False Conclusion – You might reach a conclusion in a persuasive argument that doesn't follow from the facts or examples. For example, you might conclude from watching a number of TV shows that all TV shows are boring, but you may be watching a channel with nothing of interest to you.

6. False Analogy – Someone who tries to argue that if things are similar in some ways, then they are similar in other ways makes this error. For example, a writer might argue that because dogs and cats are both house pets and since dogs will fetch sticks, cats will fetch sticks too.

7. Ignoring the Issue – This error happens when you argue things that are irrelevant. For example, you begin by discussing whether or not a movie is worth seeing, then say the theater is beautiful or the popcorn is lousy. Those things have nothing to do with the movie's quality.



Revision is where your writing is taken to the next step.

Return to the draft of your essay to revise based on those comments and any other revisions you might want to make. This is an important part of the writing process and you will be marked on whether or not you were able to make the necessary revisions.

Part A: Provide 3 examples of the revisions you made to your essay. Include both the original and revised sections. Use the attached template.

Example:

Original: "Arctic drilling may not be perfect, but it will probably help us stop using foreign oil at some point. This, I imagine, will be a good thing."

Revised: "Time and time again, science has shown that arctic drilling is dangerous. It is not worth the risks environmentally or economically."

Provide 3 examples of where you have made revisions to your essay. Include both the original and revised sections.

1.

2.

3.

Part B: Incorporating Transitional Words or Phrases

Earlier in this unit we discussed the importance of transitional words or phrases. Record examples of transition words and phrases you incorporated into your writing.

Transitions – words or phrases that help the reader make connections between ideas within our writing



- 1 Reread your essay draft, noting spots where the ideas don't seem to flow together.
- 2 Ask yourself, "How do these ideas relate?"
- 3 Add in transition words and phrases to clarify the relationships between these ideas.

Core Lesson

Second,

You should donate because a shark repellent could help our economy. While many people guess that sharks have cost people money, they have actually affected our economy in a few different ways. **For one,** lots of hardworking fishermen have their catches ruined when they accidentally get bit. **In addition,** this costs them a lot of money. Our government has lost lots of money because of sharks. "Sharks were attacking listening devices being towed by Navy submarines," which one guy called "the million-dollar bite" (Caputo, 2). **In one instance,** a fishery in Alaska save money by repelling sharks. The more research Stroud does, the greater the chance of this happening again!

Incorporating Transitional Words/Phrases

1.

2.

3.