

REVISED MAJOR PAPER

ENGL 108 / SEC. H & I / SUMMER LEAP 2009 / OLDHAM & RUBASKY / CHANG & LEE



One of the requirements for your Final Portfolio is to revise one of your three, earlier Major Paper assignments: the Literacy Narrative, the Close Reading, or the Read-Search Project.

Before You Start Revising

Revision is an important part of the writing process. It provides you the opportunity to return to your paper with a critical eye, to reconsider or rethink your argument, to review and reorganize your evidence, and to respond to and polish your language. In other words, revision is a process of “re-visioning” or “re-seeing” what you have done and what you might do next with your paper.

Your first step is to pick the Major Paper that you want to revise and include as part of your Final Portfolio. You should consider the following when picking your paper: 1) Does the paper satisfy the assignment? 2) Does the paper make an argument, have a claim, have a purpose? 3) Does the paper provide the necessary support and evidence? 4) How much time and work is required in order to accomplish all of the above? And finally, 5) Am I interested in working on the paper again?

Goals and Outcomes

Once you have selected your paper, you must set aside enough time for revision. Significant and meaningful revisions cannot be done in just a few minutes. Revision is more than just proofreading and editing and responding to instructor comments. You must do more than just fix spelling, grammar, and punctuation (though these details are important). You must do more than just make sure you have complete sentences, topic sentences, strong evidence, and good transitions. You must do more than just “fix” what you received comment on. Successful revision requires that you look at the big picture and how the little stuff all fits and flows together.

Fortunately, you’ve been away from your papers at least a few days, so you can come back to them with fresh eyes. Reread your assignment sheet to make sure you understand what the paper requires. Reread your peer review workshop notes. And reread your instructor’s marginal and end comments. Then come up with a revising plan:

- What do you need to change? (claim, focus, direction, stakes, texts, reasoning, tone)
- What do you need to add? (subclaims, quotes, evidence, transitions, analysis, commentary, description)
- What do you need to cut? (redundancy, digressions, examples, unnecessary language, fluff)
- What do you need to polish? (word choice, sentence length, transitions, paragraphs, figures of speech)
- What do you need to fix? (grammar, punctuation, formatting, quotations, citations, works cited)

Guidelines and Due Dates

Format: 3-6 pages (depending on the chosen paper), typed, double-spaced, 1” margins, title, proper heading, 12-point Times Roman font, MLA format, substantively revised and proofread and edited, stapled

Due: Friday, August 7 at NOON, turned in with your Final Portfolio