

DEVELOPING A READER-FRIENDLY ESSAY: REVISION STRATEGIES

Revising is an important component of the writing process. Flexible revising strategies allow you to have more control over your writing process because strategizing involves making choices about what you say and how you say it; develop a "to do" list and/or plan that reflects the purpose of the essay. There is no "correct" order in which to use these strategies; choose a sequence to fit your needs as you write.

Objective

Strategies

check organization

- outline your draft by labeling the topic of each paragraph
- then compare to your plan and the assignment's requirements
- decide what stays, what goes, what moves, and what needs to be added

clarify your views

- freewrite on the theme/topic
- review your freewrite and draft to compare them and integrate where necessary
- reread the instructions to see how the assignment calls for your views

get important descriptive details

- freewrite or brainstorm your observations
- skim, looking for most precise examples
- choose the best locations to place additions in the draft

check clarity and analysis

- ask yourself the function of specific sentences in relation to the theme, purpose and demands of the assignment

develop the argument by grasping

- review course materials for contrary positions
- discuss with a peer who has a different viewpoint