

Surviving The Revision Process

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DePaul Thesis & Dissertation Conference

Winter 2020





The University Center for Writing-based Learning

- **We're for everyone!** We work with all writers at all stages of the writing process.
- We offer **four types of appointments** to best fit your writing needs and style of learning.
- Between our two offices, we're open **seven days a week**.
 - SAC 212 (Lincoln Park) and Lewis 1600 (Loop)

ICEBREAKERS



Name

Major

Thesis Project or Dissertation Topic

GOALS



- Define and understand the relationship between revising process and proofreading as well as their differences.
- Identify resources and tricks for successfully editing and revising your work.

REVISING VS. PROOFREADING



- **Revising:** The process of rethinking the writing as soon as the first draft is completed.
 - Argument (thesis), evidence, organization
- **Proofreading:** Looking for small but common mistakes throughout paper.
 - Spelling errors, punctuation

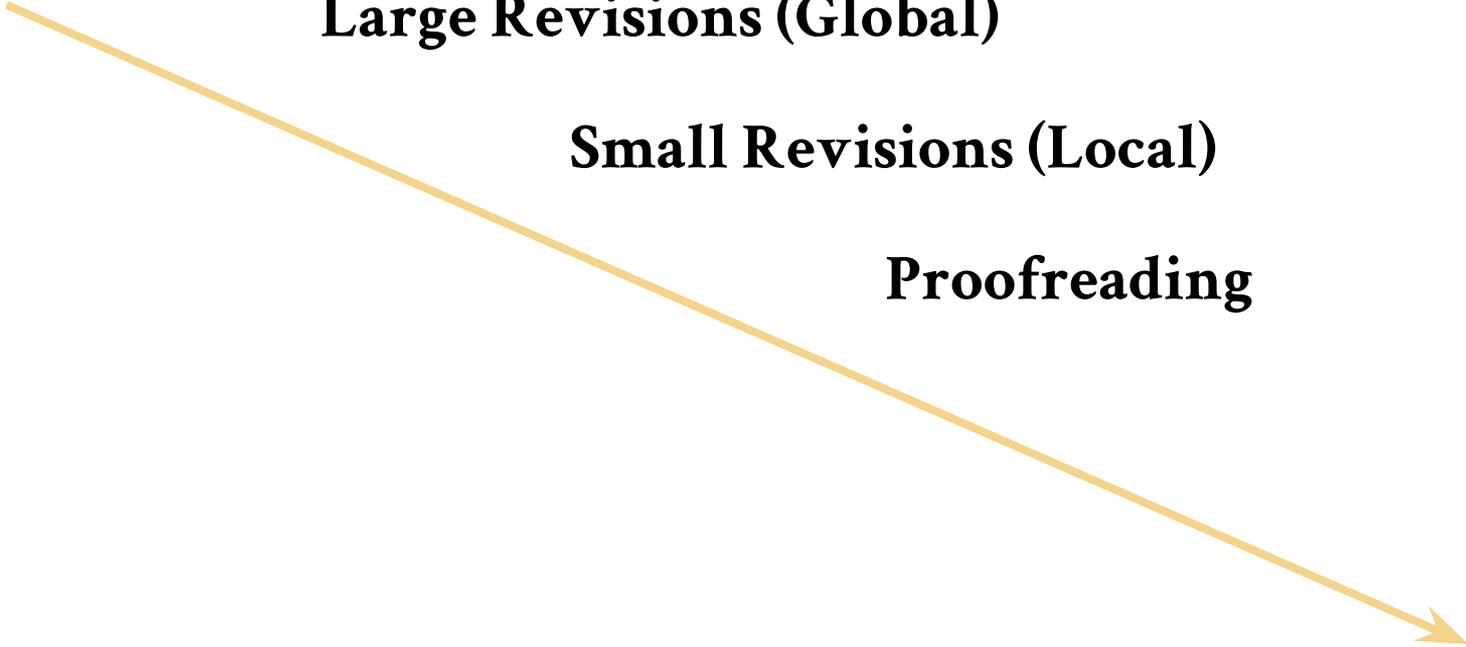
ORDER OF CONCERNS



Large Revisions (Global)

Small Revisions (Local)

Proofreading



PREWRITING STRATEGIES



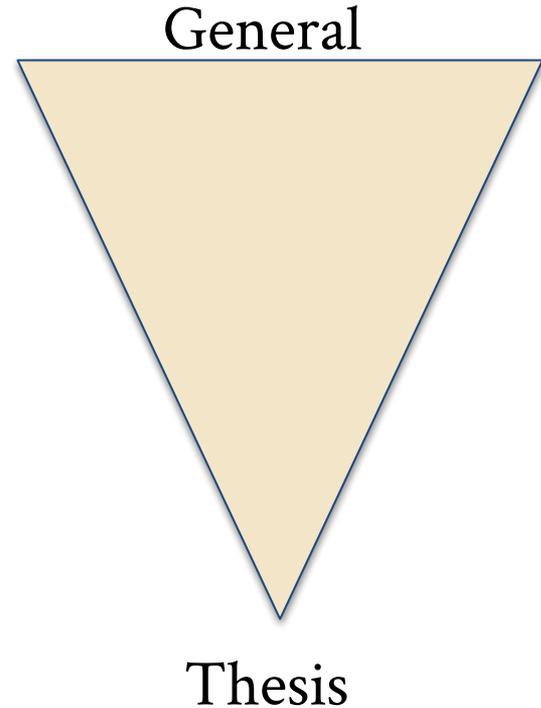
- **Brainstorming is important!**
 - Free writing, mind mapping, outlining
 - Create a “Catch-all document.”

- **Collecting Evidence**
 - Making your sources easily accessible to you as you draft
 - **Structure around your quotes!**

INTRODUCTION STRATEGIES



- Intro sets the personality
- Give a hook
- Intro leads to thesis statement
- Thesis is a promise!
- Write it last?



THESIS REIMAGINED



Regarding your thesis:

- A. Is it argumentative?
- B. Is it interesting?
- C. Is it grounded in research?

How To Revise:

- A. Write a counter thesis and have it be successful
- B. Revisit thesis after writing whole paper
- C. Flip original thesis with intro to “new” thesis in conclusion

BODY PARAGRAPHS



- Clear topic sentence
- Evidence and supporting details— examples
- Effective transitions
- Wrap-up conclusion sentence

LARGE REVISIONS

- Use outlining strategies to evaluate the effectiveness of your organization
- Rethinking the evidence used to determine whether it works best for the thesis (and are the sources credible?)
- Where can I expand?
 - Would an outside reader understand this?

SMALL REVISIONS



- Reading backwards to find smaller issues
- Reading Aloud!
 - Where do you pause?
 - Where do you stumble or hesitate?
- Make sure citations follow style guidelines
- Word choice and length requirements

CONCLUSIONS



- Don't introduce no new ideas that require explanation
(brief synthesis)
- Try to answer the “So what?” question
- Consider a look toward the future

GENERAL STRATEGIES



- Productive procrastination
- Always read it out loud!
- New eyes, new perspective (Come to the Writing Center!)
 - Make sure you could explain your paper to someone who isn't in your field
- Reverse Outlining
- Create a Catch-All Document

ASK A TUTOR



In groups of 2-3, discuss and reflect on your writing experiences to share with the entire group.

- What are strategies that you have found for revision?
- What are some struggles that you have encountered while revising your paper?
- What is something you would like to ask a tutor in regards to the revision process?

FINAL THOUGHTS



- Revision is a key component to making sure that your work is the best it can be
- While revising may seem daunting, give yourself time and credit after you are done to reflect on the changes you made
- Remember to keep your reader with you throughout your paper
- Always remember that you have support within DePaul's community— especially from the UCWbL!



Questions?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



- Alber, Rebecca. “4 Strategies for Teaching Students How to Revise.” *Edutopia*, 22 Feb. 2016, <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/4-strategies-teaching-kids-how-revise-rebecca-alber>
- “Body Paragraphs.” *Aims Community College*, <https://www.aims.edu/student/online-writing-lab/process/body-paragraph>
- “Revision Checklist for Essays.” *OWL Roane State Community College*, <https://www.roanestate.edu/owl/EssayRev.html>
- “Revising for Effective Introductions and Conclusions (English I Writing).” *Texas Gateway*, <https://www.texasgateway.org/resource/revising-effective-introductions-and-conclusions-english-i-writing>
- “Revising Your Paper.” *Why and How to Revise*, <https://depts.washington.edu/owrc/Handouts/Revising%20Your%20Paper.pdf>



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Writing-based Learning**

Need more help?
Come visit us at the UCWbL!