

# Revising: Transcript

## Slide 1:

Thank you for watching the Purdue OWL's vidcast on revision. Revising and editing are two distinct elements of the writing process. In this vidcast, we'll look at specific strategies to accomplish the revision stage as well as the different levels of revision.

## Slide 2:

Although revising and editing are often conflated, revision is a unique process. In simple terms, revision is primarily concerned with large-scale changes to the document, whereas editing is focused on small-scale changes.

Revision focuses large-scale, or higher order concerns, like: alterations to the primary claim or focus of the text; changing the organization and structure of the document; conducting major rewrites; and other elements that go beyond sentence-level tweaks and adjustments.

## Slide 3:

As you revise, keep these core questions in mind:

- What is your main point, and is it clear?
- Who are your readers and what is your purpose: Are they addressed?
- Evaluate your evidence and ask: Is your thesis supported?
- Ask yourself: Does everything fit? Save only the good pieces.
- Finally, stay reader-centered: What would your readers think?

This revision checklist will help you keep higher-order concerns at the forefront to ensure your writing is achieving its purpose, speaking to its intended audience, and adequately supporting its main points or claims.

## Slide 4:

The questions on the last slide can be applied to different “levels” of the text you’re writing. These different levels are:

- The document level
- The chapter level
- The paragraph level
- The sentence level
- And other lingering concerns

Each level comes with its own considerations for revising, which are oftentimes bound up in different disciplinary conventions and expectations.

## Slide 5:

The document level concerns itself with questions like:

- Is the document divided into the appropriate number of sections & subsections?
- Are sections & sub-sections titled appropriately?
- Do chapter lengths seem balanced?
- Does the document have an overall introduction and a conclusion?
- Does the order of the chapters or sections make sense within disciplinary conventions?
- Does the overall main idea relate to each chapter or section? And is that relationship clear?

## Slide 6:

Chapter-Level revision asks:

- Does each chapter have an introductory paragraph and a concluding paragraph?
- Does the order of sections within the chapter meet disciplinary requirements?
- Does the order of paragraphs within each section display appropriate logic?
- Does the chapter cover all aspects of the topic that were promised in the thesis or main point of the chapter?

## Slide 7:

For Paragraph-Level revision, consider these questions:

- Does each paragraph have a topic and transition sentence?
- Does the topic sentence match the content of the paragraph?
- Does the order of information within each paragraph display appropriate logic?
- Is the paragraph shorter than 4 sentences or longer than 7 sentences? If so, consider expanding or splitting your paragraph.

- Finally, do transition words show the connection of ideas between sentences within a single paragraph?

## Slide 8

During Sentence-Level revisions, you may be tempted to proofread; challenge yourself to consider the following questions instead:

- Does the order of information within each sentence make sense? Would rearranging it increase clarity?
- Are there sentences that seem unclear or that a reader was unable to comprehend?
- Are the appropriate transition words used to show the relationship between two or more ideas within a sentence?

## Slide 9

Lastly, consider any other revisions that may be unique to your own writing process. For example:

- What are the common issues other people (like your advisor) point out in your writing? Once those are identified, isolate one problem at a time and check to see if anything else needs to be addressed.

## Slide 10

Check out the rest of our videos about the difference between revising and editing, editing tips, ways to find writing support, and so much more!

You can also find more information about graduate writing on the Purdue OWL website.

Thanks for watching!