Revision Checklist

Revision is focused on improving your ideas, not the mechanics of your paper. Revision leads naturally to editing. Find a quiet space and remove yourself from distractions. Print off a draft of your writing since it is best to edit on paper than on the computer. Be prepared to make notes in the margins with your changes. Focus on structure and order of ideas at this stage.

When you are revising your essay, ask yourself the following questions:

☐ Are my introduction and my conclusion strong enough to attract and engage my readers, and to provide a sense of closure at the end?

☐ If it’s an argumentative essay, do I have a strong, clear thesis statement?

☐ Do my supporting paragraphs really support my thesis statement? If not, the essay may not withstand a critical reading.

☐ Do I have enough credible supporting evidence, or do I need more factual evidence, examples, or discussion to convince or engage my readers?

☐ Are my supporting paragraphs arranged so that they build logically to the conclusion?

☐ Do I start strong and do I end strong?

☐ Would the impact of my paper be stronger if I changed the order of the paragraphs. Some writers save their strongest points for the end.

☐ Is there anything that I should delete from my paper because it is not relevant to the purpose of my paper or is inconsistent with the points that I make?

☐ Upon reflection, am I happy with what I have to say?

☐ Do I believe what I have said?

☐ Can I defend my position and points of support if I am challenged to do so?