

The Art of Revision - Areas to Develop

In this revision strategy, you will do a close-read of your text and find the areas that need to be developed more. Make a copy of the draft you'd like to revise (don't use your original!) and then follow the steps below.

Revision Strategy #1: Close Reading

Step 1: Read your draft without looking for the revision topics.

Step 2: Read your draft again, but this time read with the first revision topic in mind. On your draft, underline the examples you find of the first revision topic.

Step 3: Read your draft again, but this time read with the second revision topic in mind. On your draft, circle the examples you find of the second revision topic.

Step 4: Read your draft again, but this time read with the third revision topic in mind. On your draft, draw a star (*) near sections of text that you need to revisit.

Step 5: After you've read your draft 4 total times, place a checkmark in the correct column, next to each revision topic. Example: If you see a lot of stars (*), then you know that you need to work on the organization of your text.

Revision Topic	This revision topic is developed.	I need to develop this revision topic.
Main Idea: My main idea stays the same throughout the text.		
Details: I wrote many details that support my main idea.		
Organization: The order of my text makes sense, and the sentences flow into each other in a logical way.		

The Art of Revision - Main Idea Practice

Use this worksheet to practice cutting out information that is unnecessary and doesn't add to your main idea.

- Read the paragraph below; then, write the main idea on the line.
- Read the paragraph a second time and cross out any information that does not support the main idea or is completely irrelevant.
- Apply this same strategy to your own draft (use a new copy).

Frida Kahlo was born in Coyoacán, Mexico on July 6, 1907. July 6, 1907 was a Saturday, and it was probably a very hot day. Frida Kahlo was an artist who was best known for her self-portraits. She found great inspiration in indigenous Mexican culture, which is evident by her use of bright colors. Another style of art that uses bright colors is the Pop Art style, which was popular in the United States and in Britain, during the 1950s and 1960s. Andy Warhol is an artist who was famous for his Pop Art works. Frida Kahlo first started painting while she was recovering from a serious bus accident, in 1925. During this recovery, she painted her first self-portrait. A self-portrait can be difficult to create because the artist needs to be able to see themselves in a completely different way. One technique an artist can use is to sit in front of a mirror. On self-portraits, Frida Kahlo said, "I paint myself because I am often alone and I am the subject I know best". Throughout her career, Frida Kahlo painted almost 150 paintings, and 55 of those paintings were self-portraits (frida-kahlo-foundation.org).

What is this paragraph's main idea?

The Art of Revision - Adding Details

Use this worksheet to practice adding supporting details to a text. Follow the steps below. After you complete the worksheet, apply this same strategy to your own draft (use a new copy).

Step 1: Read this two-sentence story.

I woke up and ate breakfast. My dog sat and barked.

Step 2: Answer these questions to generate more details to add into the story:

What time did the narrator wake up?:	What did the narrator eat for breakfast?:
What was the weather like outside?:	Where did the dog sit?:
Where did the narrator eat breakfast?:	What did the dog's bark sound like?:

Step 3: Rewrite the story, adding in the new details you generated. Continue in your writing journal if you need more space.

The Art of Revision - Organization

Use this worksheet to improve your organization skills. To complete this strategy, you will need a pair of scissors and a new copy of the draft you've been using—don't use your original! Follow the steps below.

Step 1: Use your scissors to cut apart the sections of your draft (you can cut out individual paragraphs, stanzas, lines, etc.—whatever you think needs to be reorganized).

Step 2: Label each piece with a number in the corner. (e.g., 1, 2, 3...) This will help you keep track of your pieces, as you move them around.

Step 3: Read each section that you cut out. In 1 sentence, write the main idea of that section on the back of the paper.

Step 4: Rearrange your pieces until the order of the sections makes sense and supports your topic. If you need to write notes to yourself about information you'd like to add or change, you can do so on the backs of the pieces.

Step 5: Write new order of your pieces in the table below. Continue in your writing journal if you need more space.

Step 6: Write a new draft, with sections in their new order. Include any information you wanted to change or add. Repeat this process as necessary, until you're happy with the final text.

Piece Number (1, 2, 3...)	Main Idea