

Writing Project Two: How Does Writing Evolve Through Revisions?

In Writing Project One, you examined who you are as a writer and your own writing practices. During the course of that project, you were required to write multiple drafts, provide response to your peers' writing, integrate feedback from your instructor and peers, and use revision practices to produce a more effective piece of writing.

In Writing Project Two, we will be examining revision processes in much more depth. During this project, we will be working with Nancy Sommers' (1980) definition of revision as: "a sequence of changes in composition—changes which are initiated by cues and occur continually throughout the writing of a work." We will also be working with other students' writing in order to gain a better understanding of how writers revise to create better writing.

Assignment: Using Sommers' research on the revision practices of different writers, you will OBSERVE how another student has employed different revision techniques through the course of multiple drafts and then WRITE an analysis of these observations to arrive at new knowledge about revision.

This project asks you to do primary research on another student's text. Analysis of student writing is one of the mainstays of the field of writing studies; you will be engaging in research that will produce new knowledge that can be applied to the field. Although you are encouraged to discuss articles related to the revision process, your primary concern for discussion is to write about the revision strategies that the student used in creating each draft.

This second writing assignment asks you to practice the important academic skills of observation and analysis. To perform analysis on a specific subject, you break it down into its parts in order to discover more about its nature. Doing so allows you to discover things you otherwise might not observe. Most academic disciplines will expect you to undertake analysis in some form or another. Thus, we use this assignment to practice the critical thinking and writing skills needed to learn to be thorough observers and analysts.

Requirements

- Minimum 4 double-spaced, typed pages
- 12-points Times New Roman typeface
- APA Format with custom header (no title page; 4 line heading upper left of first page: your name, instructor name, assignment, date; page number in upper right of each page)
- If necessary, a References page citing any secondary sources referenced in the assignment

Goals of Writing Project Two

- Engage in primary research of a student text—observe, take notes, select relevant material from notes, incorporate research into writing
- Analyze—focus on individual parts of a text in order to come to a point about the text as a whole.
- Select, arrange, and develop details from primary research into writing to effectively support the your perspective.
- Effectively generate, arrange, and develop details to define and to support focus.

Grading Criteria

- **Focus on student writing:** Does the draft provide adequate specific details from the source text that allow readers to understand the revision strategies used in the student paper? Has enough observational data been provided to demonstrate how the source text was revised? Does the discussion focus on a claim about the student's revision strategies?

- **Depth of analysis:** Does the analysis make a critical judgment about the revision process? Does the draft thoroughly analyze the significance of the observational data? Has the writer used observation and analysis to come to a conclusion about the student's revision process? Has the author worked to convince readers that this conclusion is valid and worth considering?
- **Content organization:** Do the transitions and organization of this draft help readers focus upon and understand the author's analysis? How effective is the introduction? How effective is the conclusion?
- **Manuscript preparation:** Has the writer polished the final draft carefully, addressing audience expectations and college-level academic writing conventions?

First Draft Due: Thursday, October 13

Revised Draft Due: Tuesday, October 25

Final Draft Due: Thursday, November 3