

Revising a First Draft

Now that you have finished the first draft of your essay, it's time to revise and expand your ideas.

First, read carefully through your draft. Then try following the steps below to evaluate your writing so far and to make a plan for further development of your essay. Write your responses on a separate sheet of paper.

1. **Strengths and Weaknesses**
 - a. **Strengths of your first draft: What do you think you did well in your exploratory draft?** Think about the following: What reasons or examples have you given that relate to your topic? Did you use some good quotes from the readings? Do you use relevant personal experience to support your points? Do you take a position on your topic?
 - b. **Weaknesses of your first draft: What do you want to try to improve as you revise?**
2. **What's your central claim or main point?**
 - a. **What is the strongest statement you make about your topic?** Try writing it in one or two sentences.
 - b. **What statement do you *want* to make about topic?** What do you want to say to your reader about your topic? What argument would you like to make in this essay? Try writing this in one or two sentences.
3. **Plans for developing and revising your essay:**
 - a. **Think about your statements in question two.** Can either one of these statements work as the central claim of your essay? If yes, write this below. If not, how might you change this or add to this to form a central claim? Try writing out a (new) central claim.
 - b. **Find two or three quotes from your readings that can help you to support your central claim.** Go through the readings carefully, paying special attention to any lines you underlined in your book or discussed in class.
 - c. **For each of the quotes you have chosen, try writing a paragraph around each quote.** Make sure you:
 - i. Introduce the author and the essay where you found the quote. You might want to summarize the main point of the essay, too.
 - ii. Present your quote. Use a signal phrase and MLA in-text citation.
 - iii. Explain your quote: What is the author trying to say in this quote AND how does it relate to your central claim?

4. **More plans for revision:** Think about anything else you might want to include. Here are some possibilities:
- a. Write an **introduction** that discusses your topic in general and then states your central claim.
 - b. Check your current **quotes**. Is there another quote that is relevant to your central claim that would be better? Are there quotes you need to take out of your essay because they don't relate to your central claim?
 - c. Check **examples and/or personal experiences**. Are there personal or real-life examples you could add to your paper that support to your central claim? Do you have personal or real-life examples in your essay now that don't relate to your central claim? Should you take these out of your essay or explain more how they relate to your central claim?
 - d. A **conclusion** that ties all of your paragraphs and discussion together and reinforces why it is important for all of us to think about the impact that advertising has on us.
 - e. Make a **checklist** of the requirements for this essay. Have you met all the requirements related to page length, MLA citation, and quoting sources?