

## Organization

A well-constructed essay follows a logical and orderly progression of ideas. Paragraphs usually are connected in terms of ideas that tellingly lead into other paragraphs. This is sometimes called “flow”, although flow can be misleading as it may seem that they paper just flowed together naturally on it’s own. Good writers work hard to achieve this kind of continuity in an organized, systematic way.

For this revision strategy, you are going to address how well you achieved organization and flow in your own paper. Did my paper do what I intended it to do?

Step one: Turn your paper over and on the back write one or two sentences which explain the goal of your paper in your own words. This is where you write down what you think your paper is doing through a central claim.

Step 2: Starting with the last paragraph of your paper, read the paragraph and in the margin on the right side, write down the main idea of that paragraph. This is not what you wanted the paragraph to say, but what it actually did say. For example, this paper is talking about radio commercials as an effective advertising strategy. Or, this paragraph is talking about the expense of cell phones.

Steps 3–7 – Continue working backwards and next to every paragraph, write down the main idea achieved. As you complete the revision, there should be a list in the right margin of all your main ideas for each paragraph.

Final Step: Read your first paragraph last and very carefully. What is the central claim of your first paragraph? Write this in the margin.

Synthesis: Intention to application

Does your central claim match what you said it was intended to do when you began this revision? What is the difference between what you thought you did compared to what you actually did do.

Create a revision plan of action.

What are 3 changes you intend to make for new draft that better aligns the ideas of the paper with the goal of the central claim?

Mark the paragraphs that need to be reformulated, re-organized, and rewritten now.