

## Revising Your Essays

No one writes a perfect first draft. Writers spend most of their time revising. Any printed material a reader encounters has probably undergone numerous drafts and revisions. Like a duck gliding gracefully across a pond, a final draft that reads effortlessly takes tremendous work under the surface.

So where do you start? How do you know what to look for? When do you know you are done? What if I have to rewrite?

Because everyone's writing process is different, and the revision process can take many forms depending on the essay and the author, here are few tips to help you get started:

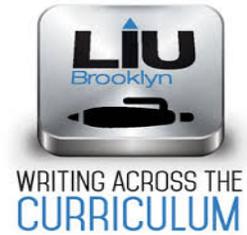
### **OWL Perdue's tips on revision:**

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/561/05/>

### **More Tips on Revision**

- **The first step is to acknowledge that (1) your draft is not perfect and (2) it is completely in your control.** You have the power to make changes, to delete, to strengthen, to expand or rewrite.

- **Learn to classify the difference between Lower Order Concerns (LOC) and Higher Order Concerns (HOC).** You can find more on this subject on the OWL Perdue website: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/690/01/>



- **Think of your drafts as different steps, and acknowledge what your goals are in each draft.** These goals will help guide your revisions. If your essay is too long, your next draft may be tighter and more focused on certain areas.

- **Do not be afraid of the delete key.** Sometimes writers become hesitant to delete any beautifully rendered text that they have worked so hard on in their first drafts. But to become a great editor, one must overcome this fear. Deleting is the swiftest way to improve an essay. A good way to decide if something should be deleted is to ask, "Does this relate to my thesis?" or "Does this relate to the topic sentence of this paragraph?" If neither is true, rest assured the sentence can be removed and it will make the essay stronger.

- **If your essay is too short, try doing a "questions draft".** A questions draft is when a writer prints out their draft and does not make any changes or scribbles, but instead reads carefully and writes questions in the margins that the essay provokes. By answering these questions, your essay will expand.

- **Save grammar correction for the last draft.** Because you will be deleting, rewriting, moving paragraphs, etc. you want to save the fine details or grammar and syntax for your final draft.