

Revision Project

So far this semester, you've produced a variety of different texts that are not traditional academic essays, including informal journal entries, notes in spreadsheets, discussion posts, emails, slide decks, and individual projects like poems, songs, children's books, and more.

Most of that work has fit into the prewriting and writing phases of the writing process (links to Purdue Online Writing Lab). Even if you took time to proofread and think about the effectiveness of your work while you were making it, you probably hadn't truly quite moved into the revision phase. The revision phase requires you to take some time away from your piece before you come back to it with new eyes.

This project asks you to practice authentic revision, where you return to one of your earlier projects after some time away from it and use what you've learned in the meantime to improve it. This is a multi-week project.

Week 1 Instructions

In your ENGL 103 Journal, record your answers to Steps 1, 2, 3, and 4 to prepare for your revision project.

Note 1: Your responses do not need to be formal essays. Focus on answering the questions in detail in any format, with enough information that you could write it up more formally later without repeating this step from scratch. You are, of course, welcome to write a more formal essay to answer these questions if you choose to do so at this time.

Note 2: Your final portfolio will require evidence of reflection and revision. This project is designed to help you produce such evidence.

Step 1. Choose your own Thing 1, Thing 1.5, or Thing 2 project to work on again.

Write detailed responses with supporting evidence to answer the following:

Why is this the project you want to revise?

Why is this a better project to revise than the other options you had?

What vision do you have or did you have for this project that you'll plan to address in your revision?

Step 2. Review your prior work on your chosen project objectively. What did you produce for your first attempt at this project? This step should require very little interpretation or memory on your part because you have this information documented in your ENGL 103 Journal, so where in your ENGL 103 Journal or other work could someone look to find the answers to these questions for themselves?

Note: Do you need a review of what objectively and subjectively mean? [Click here to read more.](#)

Write detailed responses with supporting evidence to answer the following:

- Describe your work in objective terms
- How long is it? How many words and images are in your piece?
- What is your thesis, main idea, or purpose for the work (other than "it was assigned")?
- What format is it? Can you describe a genre it fits into? Can you identify the audience it is best suited for?
- How did you go about producing that work?
- How much time did you take, according to your labor log and work journal?
- What steps did you take?
- How did you divide your time on the project the first time?

Step 3. Review the assignment prompt. Go back to the original assignment sheet for Thing 1, Thing 1.5, or Thing 2 (depending on which one you've chosen to revise). Reread it closely. Restate the the most important elements of the assignment.

Step 4. Evaluate your chosen project subjectively. How successful was your first attempt, comparing what you were intending and what you produced? Were you able to achieve your own vision? Which parts of your vision were you able to achieve and which were out of reach? What held you back from getting to your vision, and what do you love about your piece? Note: Do you need a review of what objectively and subjectively mean? [Click here to read more.](#)

Write detailed responses with supporting evidence to answer the following:

- When you were deciding what to create, what factors influenced your choices? (e.g., the best way to showcase your ideas, a genre or format you wanted to practice creating)
- What skills or knowledge did you already have that helped you create this project? How do those skills or knowledge show up in your piece?
- What factors limited your ability to produce your ideal version of the project? How did you adjust your final product to deal with those limitations?
- How effectively did your product achieve the assignment requirements?
- What are some things you could do to "improve" on this piece when you return to this same assignment this time?
- Identify and explain at least 3 minor changes you could make next time. How would those changes improve your piece? (Minor changes include spelling and grammar editing, formatting changes that don't affect the content or message, and other changes that would take relatively little time.)
- Identify and explain at least 2 moderate changes you could make next time. How would those changes improve your piece? (Moderate changes include expanding underdeveloped ideas, formatting changes that refine or clarify the content or message, and other changes that require you to think about the piece differently.)
- Identify and explain at least 1 major change you would make next time. How would that change improve your piece? (Major changes include changing the content, genre, medium, or format dramatically, or even starting over from scratch. Major changes require significant time.)

Finally, make any other notes or record any other thoughts or plans you have for your revision.

Create a new entry in your ENGL 103 Journal to turn in this phase of the Revision assignment by

Week 2 Instructions

In your ENGL 103 Journal, record your answers to Steps 1, 2, 3, and 4 to get into your revision project.

Note 1: Your responses do not need to be formal essays. Focus on answering the questions in detail in any format, with enough information that you could write it up more formally later without repeating this step from scratch. You are, of course,

welcome to write a more formal essay to answer these questions if you choose to do so at this time.

Note 2: Your final portfolio will require evidence of reflection and revision. This project is designed to help you produce such evidence.

Note 3: Each step takes a while, so consider taking breaks between each step. Be good to your brain!

Step 1. Make a plan to re-do the Thing 1 (narrative or descriptive), Thing 1.5 (Remix), or Thing 2 (analytical) assignment in the next two weeks. You can use any prior work you did in this class as raw materials for your new attempt, and you should use any and all skills you've practiced and thinking you've done all semester to make a "better" (whatever that means to you) product to meet the assignment.

Write detailed responses with supporting evidence to answer the following:

- Describe your planned deliverable -- What are you planning to make when you re-do this assignment?
- Why will this deliverable be a good way to meet the assignment requirements?
- What specific weaknesses of your first version does this new version try to address? What specific strengths of your first version does it try to keep?
- Include any other relevant thoughts or reminders that writing this response left you thinking about

Step 2. Get started on your new deliverable.

I'll look for evidence of Step 2 in your Work Journal and Labor Log. No separate ENGL 103 Journal entry is required for Step 2.

Step 3. Record your thinking for later reference.

Write detailed responses with supporting evidence to answer the following:

- In Step 1, when you were deciding what to create, what factors influenced your choices? (e.g., the best way to showcase your ideas, a genre or format you wanted to practice creating)
- What skills, experience, or knowledge are you using to create this project that you didn't use last time? How are those skills or knowledge showing up in your piece?

- What factors limited your ability to produce your ideal version of the project last time? How did you adjust your plan this time to account for those limitations?

Finally, make any other notes or record any other thoughts or plans you have about working on your revision.

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Week 3 Instructions

By Sunday this week, complete steps 1 and 2 in your ENGL 103 Journal.

Step 1. Finish and turn in your final, revised project (a.k.a., your new deliverable). This should be your final-final draft--complete, proofread, and edited--that you consider your best, final effort on your revision project.

Step 2. Compare your first version of your project with the version you just turned in.

Write detailed responses with supporting evidence to answer the following:

- How much time did you use and what kind of labor did you do to complete this revision compared to your first version?
- How effectively does your revised product achieve the assignment requirements, compared to your first version?
- What specific changes did you make in your revision project, compared to your first version? What do you hope were the effects of those changes?
- What did you preserve about the first version in your revision, and where does it show up in your product or work journal?
- Which piece do you personally like better, and why?
- What is at least ONE course learning outcome that this project helped you achieve, and where does it show up in your product or work journal?

Finally, make any other notes or record any other thoughts you have about your revised project.

Create a new entry in your ENGL 103 Journal to turn in this phase of the Revision assignment by