REVISING FOR ORGANIZATION

Writing Center

Nov 15, 2021

What is Revision?

REVISE Think A.R.M.S.
Add - Sentences - Words
Remove Unneeded words or sentences
Move Change a sentence or word placement
Substitute Trade words or sentences for others

EDIT Think C.U.P.S.
Capitalization Names, places, I, titles, months…
Usage Match nouns and verbs
Punctuation
Spelling Check spelling

Why is organization important?

■ Organization makes ideas easy to follow

■ Organization helps readers locate information

■ Organization helps the writer to present arguments in an effective way

   – *Poorly organized papers are difficult to read, understand, and make sense*

Revision Outline Method

- Number each paragraph

- On a separate paper, write a number for each paragraph

- Next to each number, write a summary in as few words as possible for each paragraph

- Group summaries together and then label each group

- Make connections between the groups of paragraphs and try to connect them in an outline

- Write down all the changes you want to make

- Now you can reorganize your paragraphs

The Reverse Outline

- With a reverse outline, you create the outline of your paper based on the draft that you write

- This provides the immediate result of showing how your thoughts are organized

- At the very least, your reverse outline should include the main ideas of each paragraph

- If the main ideas are coherent and relatable to your thesis and each other, then you likely wrote a pretty well-organized paper

Let's try an activity

- ■ Read the three paragraphs below and number them each

- ■ Now, summarize each of them to see if the summaries are coherent

- ■ Shuffle the paragraphs to find the most logical organization

Paragraph 1

Another possible author of the poem is Caedmon. Caedmon as a possible author comes from a reading of Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of England*. Bede writes that Caedmon was divinely inspired to write poetry in a dream. " … he there composed himself to rest at the proper time; a person appeared to him in his sleep … Hereupon he presently began to sing verses to the praise of God…" (217-218). Caedmon's vision is similar to the beginning of the narrator's vision in the Dream of the Rood: "I will tell the best of visions / that came to me in the middle of the night" (1-2). The connection is the reason many scholars attribute the poem to Caedmon. This theory is also speculation. We really do not know who the author is.

Paragraph 2

The most widely read version of the poem is found in the Vercelli Book. *The Encyclopedia Britannica* states; " Marginalia in the manuscript indicate that the manuscript was in English use in the 11th Century." Part of the poem is inscribed in runes on the Ruthwell Cross. The Ruthwell Cross is around 1,300 years old which puts it well before the Vercelli Book.

Paragraph 3

The poem's age has made it difficult to find out who the author is. Even today scholars still debate who the author might be. Richard Fletcher speculates in *The Barbarian Conversion: From Paganism to Christianity,* about the poet: "No verse securely attributed to him [Aldhelm] has come down to us, though it has been suggested...that he might have been the author of the magnificent Old English poem on the cross known as *The Dream of the Rood,*" (Fletcher 264). Aldhelm was abbot of Malmesbury and bishop of Sherborne.

Revising for Organization

- Think about the paragraphs

- What order would you put the paragraphs in and why?

Final Thoughts

- Keep the assignment prompt in your mind at all times during the writing process

- A writing process cannot be completed without revision

- It never hurts to have someone listen to you read the paper to help catch mistakes

- Look at the assignment prompt once more before you submit your paper

QUESTIONS?

Please, come & see us at the Writing Center, MB 108

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