

Strategies for Revision

Take a Break

Unless you are on a serious time crunch, taking a step away from your paper will help you to see it with fresh eyes. Walk the dog, take a shower, dice some vegetables, chat with a neighbor, ponder a tree. Do anything to get away from your assignment and give yourself a break!

Create a reverse outline

To create a reverse outline, start by circling your thesis statement. Then, read each paragraph and write a summary in the margins. This will create an outline of your paper from the content that already exists. A reverse outline will help you evaluate the flow of your paper, as well as determine whether each paragraph relates back to the thesis. For more help, please refer to Purdue OWL's guide [here](#).

Highlight

This is a great visual technique to isolate different elements of your paper and see how they function within the paper as a whole. For example, you may choose to highlight your supporting evidence and quotations to determine which paragraphs need more support.

Cut and Paste

Use this function on your computer (or even print your paper and use actual scissors) to reorder paragraphs. This is an easy way to consider multiple drafts of your paper and determine which one has the most logical flow and progression.

Revisit the prompt

Refer back to the prompt and guidelines provided by your professor. Check off the requirements you have met. Revisit ones that still need attention.

Seek Support

It is always good to have fresh eyes on your paper. Here are some people who can help!

- Your professors want you to succeed. Most are available during office hours or for consultations outside of class.
- Staff at the Georgia College Writing Center, of course!
- Friends and family are likely non-experts on the topic of your paper, making them excellent third-party editors. Be aware, however, that friends and family are often not experts on formal conventions of writing, so the scope of their feedback is limited.



Georgia College Writing Center

writing.center@gcsu.edu

Mon. - Thur. 9am - 7pm | Fri. 9am - 2pm

Sat. 2pm - 4pm | Sun. 2pm - 4pm*

Schedule an appointment through the Unify portal

*All Writing Center appointments are virtual for Spring 2021

