

Revising ...

Revision Logs

The revision log on Google Docs is a list of the various strategies we will use to work on your writing this semester. This log is where you will record what you discovered about your writing when you used the various strategies, and what changes you will make to this piece of writing as a result. It is also a place for you to record what you might do differently the next time you use the strategy.

There is a long history of research demonstrating the effectiveness of “reflection” ...

Another crucial point to note when surveying theories of transferability is how frequently different theorists call for conscious reflection or mindfulness. That is to say, there is an intentional, volitional, reflective element of learning needed in order for knowledge to go beyond the door of any one classroom. The list of theorists who advocate such a position is lengthy. Beach's theory of knowledge propagation entails a mindful generalizing of understanding. Perkins and Salomon's model of high road transfer wants learners to make intentional and thoughtful connections. Hatano's theory of adaptive expertise means that someone talented in the performance of a skill is not able to transfer that skill to other situations unless she is also able to generalize it into a framework of articulated knowledge.... Young differentiated between what he called the *knack* and the *art* of invention: the knack being the practiced ability to perform a skill oneself, the art being the deeper understanding of that skill combined with the ability to teach others a heuristic for acquiring it.

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In the literature from psychology, this is the difference between procedural and declarative knowledge. Procedural knowledge involves knowing *how* to do something, while declarative knowledge is knowing *what* is behind the process. (220) ... Like Hillocks, Russell distinguishes between what he calls pragmatic knowledge and discursive knowledge, the former being the ability to do something, the latter being the ability to articulate the discourse conventions. McDonald 219-221

There are lots of ways to “get at” your writing listed on the revision log. Not every strategy will be useful, and certain strategies will work better for certain kinds of papers. ***You will not want to use every strategy on every paper.*** Think of it along the lines of the quote attributed to Abraham Lincoln:

You can fool some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time but you can't not fool all of the people all of the time.

An important part of your final grade is the REVISION LOG. You will need to make entries on the log for each strategy you use inside or outside of class. Sometimes I will assign strategies for everyone to try. Other times, you will be required to select and use strategies that you think will be most helpful for the problems in the paper you are currently working on.

As you complete the revision log, It might be helpful to think of the notes you make as a two part “memo & plan.”

- Memo:** What did you take away from doing ____X____? What did you realize about your writing when you used this tool? What were the valuable comments from your peer editors?
- Plan:** What do you want to try to work with as you go forward? Name and briefly discuss the 2 or 3 things you want to do when you revise this piece of writing.
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Grading

Your use of the revision log will be **about half** of your workshopping grade. I'll read your entries throughout the semester and note ...

- (1) whether all assignments are completed, and
- (2) the overall quality of your critical commentary

You will receive a completion grade for each entry (✓, ✓+, ✓-).

You don't have to like an activity or find it useful – sometimes the best thing to know is what doesn't work for you. But you do have to try the various strategies.

Another component of your workshopping grade is the comments you make on your author's papers on Google Docs. I look at each draft to judge whether you are, indeed, thinking about the writing and making suggestions for how to improve it – or simply proofreading.

Finally, I look at the grades you award your editing team members and factor those into the workshopping grade.

Name that strategy

The strategies carry names that I've come up with – you may know the activity by another name. The name is not important. Using another tool, lens or approach when taking another look at your writing is important.