

Revising

Frankenstein Activities: Organization

Cut it up: overall organization

Physically cut your essay into sections with a pair of scissors

- You might have to tape the sections together where they span pages or paragraphs
- Figure out what each paragraph is talking about
- Arrange and re-arrange ... Try every possible order for your argument
- Pick the order that you think is most effective
- Note: not every piece of writing has a formal introduction :-)

Post it notes ... thank you, Ryan Seastrom

Write the claims or points of proof or topic for each paragraph on post it notes and move them around until you are satisfied.

Examples:

- my parents taught me this – open your eyes and not your mouth
- I don't do it when I play Pictionary
- but I did it when I learned to make waffle sandwiches
- and Jack Ryan does this

Or maybe

- my parents taught me
- by teaching me to make waffle sandwiches
- and Jack Ryan does this
- but I don't when I play Pictionary because

Marginalia ... what a great word!

Marginalia are notes, scribbles, and comments made by readers in the margin of a book, but should not be confused with signs or marks (e.g. stars, crosses, fists) or doodles.

- Read each paragraph
- Note the topic(s) or main ideas in the margin
- Analyze your notes for logical flow, etc.

Color code it highlighting

- Most any word processing program can do this – or you can use your own highlighters
- Highlight each main idea, point of proof or claim in a separate color
- Highlight every time that idea occurs in your paper in that idea's color
- In theory, we want all the blue ideas in one place, all the yellow ideas in one place, and so forth – or we want a pattern throughout: blue, pink, yellow ... blue, pink, yellow

Scramble it

Step 1: Save as

- Save your essay with a new name
- This will give you a file to play with while preserving all your hard work on the current draft
- Work in the new file

Step 2: Using Word, find and replace all the periods with paragraph breaks

- Control F – opens the find window
 - enter a period in the window
- Click on the Replace tab
 - move your cursor to the replace window
 - Click on More / Special / Paragraph break
- Replace all
- You now have a list of sentences

Step 3: Sort

- Highlight the text you want to sort (anything from a single paragraph to the entire essay)
- On the paragraph tab, click on Sort [AZ ↓]
- Click OK – the default should be “sort by paragraph”
- You now have an alphabetized list of sentences

Step 4: Analyze

- Look for patterns & repetitions
- See what happens with you arrange the sentences in different ways
- Bring your conclusions