

# Exercise: Revise an Argument

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## Go through this checklist as you revise your essay.

- Print your paper.
- Underline your thesis statement.
- Underline every topic sentence in each paragraph in your paper.
  - Make sure:
    - ✓ That every paragraph has a topic sentence;
    - ✓ There is only one topic sentence per paragraph.

## Now, go back and read *only* the underlined sentences in your paper.

- Every topic sentence should relate directly to your thesis statement. Your topic sentences will support your thesis statement, advance your argument, and clearly transition your ideas.
- Do your topic sentences:
  - Support your thesis statement?
    - ✓ Do you need to change the order of paragraphs (or information in the paragraph) to clarify or advance your argument?
    - ✓ Or do you need rewrite your thesis to reflect the new direction your paper is taking?
  - Advance your argument?
    - ✓ Are your topic sentences different from each other?
    - ✓ Do you need to brainstorm more points?
  - Transition between ideas clearly?
    - ✓ What should be moved or deleted to clarify your idea?
    - ✓ What should be added to make your argument flow better?
  - Form a beginning, middle, and end to your argument?
    - ✓ Do you clearly introduce your argument to the reader?
    - ✓ Is there enough evidence in the body of your essay?
    - ✓ Is there a conclusion to your argument?

## Confirm that your essay has flow.

- You should be able to read every underlined sentence (your thesis statement and each topic sentence). They will flow coherently, and make a mini-essay that clearly outlines your argument.
  - ✓ Are all points covered well?
  - ✓ What is skipped?
  - ✓ Do you repeat yourself?
  - ✓ Is your argument in an order that makes sense to the reader?
- Think about what you need to add, delete, or move, to ensure your argument convinces the reader.