

Macroscale Revision Checklist:

At this stage, do not worry too much about details like word choice, punctuation, etc. - you will deal with these details later. You would not want to spend your time getting the wording of a sentence right only to decide later that the paragraph it is in weakens your argument and needs to be deleted. First, look at the overall picture - the argument, organization, and tone of the paper as a whole. So, at this point, nothing smaller than a paragraph should concern you.

I. Further develop your focus and thesis:

- ☐ Can your reader immediately identify what the topic of the essay will be - which text(s) and which aspect of the text (language features, character development, etc.) you will analyze?
- ☐ Have you narrowed the scope of the thesis for your reader? How could it be further narrowed? Be specific!
- ☐ Does your thesis clearly identify a claim that someone can logically debate?
- ☐ Has your thinking about the issues evolved while you were writing? If so, how will this change your thesis statement?
- ☐ Have you answered the question of "So What?" Did you get your reader thinking beyond your paper to understand why your thesis is important to worldly issues?

II. Reorganize your paper, if necessary

- ☐ Does the order of the ideas and paragraphs make immediate sense to you, or does an alternative order suggest itself? Unless instructed otherwise by your teacher, do not be afraid to experiment with the order of your body paragraphs to see if they can be arranged in a better way.

III. Expand your paper with new paragraphs or with new evidence within existing paragraphs.

- ☐ What textual evidence have you used? Is it persuasive or does your evidence contradict your thesis?

☐ Have you successfully integrated quotations, summaries, or paraphrases into your own writing, while acknowledging your source?

IV. Eliminate any unnecessary, contradictory, or distracting passages

☐ Does every piece of evidence, every sentence, and every paragraph contribute to the validity of your argument? If not, delete any irrelevant ideas.

V. Clarify difficult passages with more specific explanations or evidence.

☐ Have you explained why you are citing a passage? What specific details in the passage support your interpretation? Make sure your reasoning is explicit in your assignment. **Never** assume a quotation or paraphrase speaks for itself. Always explain the quote or summary.

References

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University of Wisconsin-Madison. (2020). *The writer's handbook*.
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