

Microscale Revision:

Focus on style and clarity. The types of changes you will make at this stage are small-scale versions of the changes you made during the macroscale round of revisions: adding, cutting, reorganizing, and clarifying.

I. Consider your sentences.

- ☐ Do you keep the writing interesting by using a variety of sentence types, and sentences of different lengths?
- ☐ Have you used an occasional rhetorical question to get your readers thinking? If so, make sure you use this device in moderation. In other words, do not have more than two rhetorical questions in an essay because it can become too distracting for your readers.
- ☐ Does each sentence clearly follow from the last one? Or do you need to reorganize the sentences within a particular paragraph to provide clearer transitions between sentences?
- ☐ Look at the first and last sentences in each paragraph. Do they provide sufficient transitions from one paragraph to the next?

II. Consider your word choice

- ☐ Do you constantly use the same words and phrases? If so, could you vary your choices a bit?
- ☐ If you use any specific academic terms, are you certain that you are using these terms correctly?
- ☐ Look at the verbs. Are many of them strong and active, or do most sentences rely on dull linking verbs like “is” or “seems”?

References

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