

After following these five steps, you are ready to start revising!

Ask yourself:

- Was I able to read my paper without taking unexplained pauses?
- Did my sentences make sense alone, but seem out of place with the paragraph?
- Is there anything I can still do to improve my grammar?

Remember that writing is a process—while this pamphlet will help you start to think about your writing, the best way to get help is through talking with tutors and professors!

Here are some free resources available to you as Notre Dame students!

Purdue OWL

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

Center for the Study of Language and Culture

<http://cslc.nd.edu/>

English for Academic Purposes

<http://cslc.nd.edu/programs/eap/>

University Writing Center

<http://writingcenter.nd.edu/>

A note to tutors:

This pamphlet is especially helpful to pinpoint specific concerns of a student/tutee—to maximize the efficacy of a session or to identify the global concerns of a paper, these three levels integrate a non-directive style and the tutoring instruction consistent with the mission of Notre Dame's University Writing Center.

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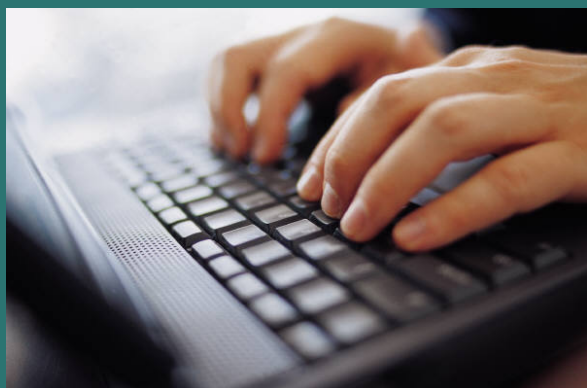


Revising your paper

Tips to improving your writing process, organization, and grammar

Before you submit your paper...

- ❖ Reverse outline
- ❖ Read it *out loud*
- ❖ Mark anything that sounds wrong, but *DON'T* stop reading
- ❖ Look back at your class/reading notes
- ❖ Reflect on where you need to improve



Now use the questions on the inside cover to identify which level on which you should focus!

Mechanical Level

*If your answer to the first question was **NO**... you might want to take a look at your grammar on the mechanical level.*

Problems on this level might look like:

- ⇒ Incomplete sentences
- ⇒ Missing prepositions and articles

As you revise:

- ⇒ Keep an online grammar "Cheat Sheet" open on your laptop while you edit
- ⇒ Continue reading drafts aloud!
- ⇒ Meet with an English Language tutor to discuss tactics for your writing.
- ⇒ Look online for explanations of grammar rules

Sentence Level

*If your answer to the second question was **NO**... you might want to take a look at your grammar on the sentence level*

Problems on this level look like:

- ⇒ Complete sentences
- ⇒ Missing ideas, choppy sentences, & unclear ideas

As you revise:

- ⇒ Compare your reverse outline to what you expect from your argument.
- ⇒ Practice writing longer passages: keep a journal or write for pleasure, experience writing longer sentences will help you develop 'academic grammar.'
- ⇒ Consider finding a pen-pal with whom you can practice informal writing.

Paragraph Level

*If your answer to the third question was **NO**... you might want to take a look at your grammar on the paragraph level.*

Problems on this level look like:

- ⇒ Hard to pinpoint EXACTLY where your English is wrong
- ⇒ Missing the proper 'voice'

For this paper:

- ⇒ Check out sample essays for your discipline, how do they compare to your draft?
- ⇒ Keep in mind your audience, how have you addressed them?

To avoid these mistakes in the future:

- ⇒ Practice your persuasive writing: making arguments and engaging in academic discourse is one of the hardest things to do in the English language.
- ⇒ Meet with your professors; ask for feedback on your writing (even if it's not a 'writing' class).