Lo Tech vs. Hi Tech

Drafting, Review, Revision & Grading

The Peer Review Dilemma

- The "good job" problem
- Students not focusing
- Uncertainty and discomfort
- "The teacher is going to tell me"— students not making use of peer feedback
- What do we do when the student is absent?

Peer Review

- Make sure that students have clear guidelines and PR questions
- Make them practice: Sample essays in our text + peer review questions as discussion assignment before they review each other's work
- Limit the number of responses required of each student
- Require a deliverable from students and make those count
- Wait to return your comments on the rough draft until you've had time to review and make connections to the peer reviews
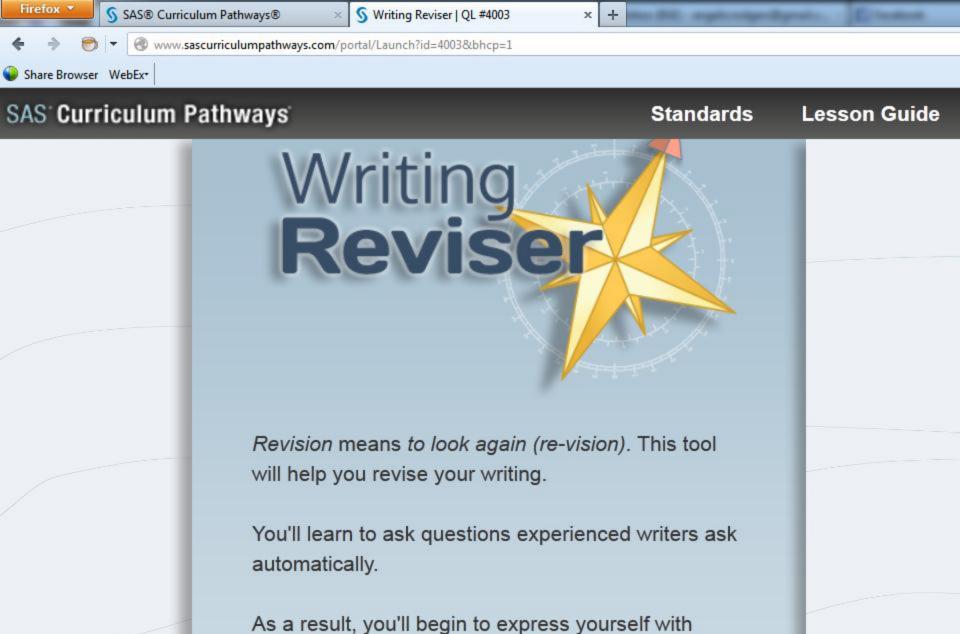
Low-Tech Solutions

- Calibrated Peer Review http://cpr.molsci.ucla.edu/Home.aspx This is a licensed, trademarked product. There are issues of cost and of having to go outside the classroom.
- Turnitin.com's Peer Mark http://turnitin.com/en_us/features/peermark We do have a license, but this still requires all students go outside the classroom to use the product.

High Tech Solutions

- SAS Curriculum Pathways' Writing Reviser
- Pros: Free, clear and form-like, isolates elements for students, takes on the paper from HOC to LOC, shows original and revised version, contains mini-lessons
- Cons: Outside of Blackboard

Self Review

SAS Curriculum Pathways

Standards   **Lesson Guide**

Writing Reviser

Revision means *to look again (re-vision)*. This tool will help you revise your writing.

You'll learn to ask questions experienced writers ask automatically.

As a result, you'll begin to express yourself with greater precision and power.

Share Browser   WebEx▾

SAS Curriculum Pathways   Standards   Lesson Guide

Writing Reviser

Setup

Purpose:

Enter your purpose here

Audience:

Enter your audience here

Enter your essay here...

To get started, follow these steps:

1. Type your essay (or copy and paste existing text) in the space at the right.

2. Review the format of your essay to be sure it is ready for revision.

about your essay

Enter your purpose here...

Audience:

Enter your audience here...

statistics   chart   list   numbers   research

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- Christine: Dr.R, I think that this resource is very informative and helps a ton with the content of my Essay 3. I especially like the Introduction under the Essay Structure category, I also gathered great information in the Sentence Power category as well. The Sentence Power category had a variety of verbs to choose from to point out the weak and hidden verbs, all verbs, and verb tenses. Overall it was a really useful tool.

- Michelle: I have only just submitted it and had a quick glance through some of the possibilities, however I think it is a great resource. I particularly like the wordiness section and the passive voice area. Those are two areas that I was having trouble with. It also has a sentence structure area that I think will be great at helping me sort through some of those things. Thank you for sharing.

- Liz: It is a good tool to have. The part I liked best was the misplaced modifiers. That really helped me in my paper, I thought it sounded good where they were but when I clicked "about misplace modifiers" it cleared things up and I was able to see the difference in where you place them.

- Karen: With all the areas the reviser looks at, you really get a different look at your paper. The other reviews did not come close to being able to point out all the areas that could use editing. The writing reviser looks at sentence structure and variety, word repetition, essay structure, passive voice and more. I got caught on relative clauses which has brought me do a lot of revising. I have been able to go through my paper with different guidance to know what needs to be changed to get the point across better and make sentences stronger. The writing reviser has helped me see a pattern in my writing as well, ultimately helping me see where improvements can be made. It truly is a great tool for any writer.

- Ryan: This was great, thank you! I really like utilizing online tools whether it is for school or for my career. Some people do not realize just how many online tools are available for free. It was a great resource and I was able to break things down for my essay even more than I originally did yesterday. I enjoy using the human side of things as well as the technology side of things for help. They both provide different aspects that can alter how someone thinks about something. Thanks again!

- Marivel: Thank you for sharing this tool with us. I will definitely use it in the future for other courses, and at work as I revise documents. Do you know for how long that log-in information will remain active for?

Student Responses to WR

- Students felt empowered by being able to do the exercise themselves and choose areas to work on.
- Students self-identified specific weak areas that we often don't get to like sentence variety and passive voice. These are two areas I've attempted to discuss in the boards that students often avoid talking about. The highlighting the WR does helps students examine their writing and analyze the errors that may be there, rather than simply being told the errors and fixing on a cosmetic level.

Observations

- How much information is enough and how much is too much (overwhelming)?
- Content vs. Editing (HOC vs. LOC)
- Consistency (from paper to paper, class to class)
- Tone
- WayPoint compatibility
- Time

Instructor Draft Review Concerns

- Word: Word does have insert comments and macros that are quite handy for grading and feedback, especially when students are making common errors. Track changes also can help with lower order concerns.
- Turnitin.com: Like WayPoint, TII does have common comments for things like comma splices, while it also allows you to customize comments through insert text bubbles.
- Both of these have great potential, but they are limited. We can't use macros, for instance, in WayPoint, nor can we use Track Changes. Track changes can also lead to a heavier focus for student and instructor on editing concerns, which is not where the focus should be in the rough draft review stage.
- Students may feel a disconnect if the final draft has no or few inserted comments in the body of the paper, the rubric comments generated by WayPoint, and summary commentary at the end if their rough draft was commented on using these tools.

Tools for grading/reviewing

- Works alongside Word and creates a comment sheet. This can be copied easily into any Word document or into the comment box at the end of a WayPoint assessment for the student.
- Comment sheet is created with a mix of instructor written comments and macros in the App. There are three sets of pre-written comments for each item, as well as three custom buttons. The pre-set comments can also be edited, making this completely customizable.
- Forces focus on content, but does include some indication to the student patterns of error.
- Built in "personal touch" and praise—it makes you stop and think about the strengths first.
- Having a narrative of the main ideas in a separate file you can open in EG Viewer window makes it easy for you to quickly refresh your memory on what you advised the student to work on in the rough draft stage.
- Consistency advantage with ability to customize the commentary for each student.
- Fast—because you know you can click as you go with both windows open, you're less likely to proofread the paper and overuse track changes or insert comments.
- Mac and PC; $14.95 per App
- Also available for iPad

Essay Grader

Student Name
Sample

Assignment
Sample

Email

Support | **Save** | **List** | **New** | **Export**

| Opening Free Write | Praise | Organization | Content | Mechanics | Style | Documentation | Closing Free Write | Grade |

Comment 1 | **Comment 2** | **Comment 3** | **Custom 1** | **Custom 2** | **Custom 3**

- Analysis ⊕
- Style ⊕
- Voice ⊕
- Mechanics ⊕
- Handwriting ⊕

- Documentation ⊕
- Format ⊕
- Ideas ⊕
- Creativity ⊕
- Effort ⊕

- Originality ⊕
- Critical Thinking ⊕
- Persuasion ⊕
- Narration ⊕

Dani,

Dani, this is a great start to the paper. Please see my revision notes below.

Your analysis is solid. You do a great job of breaking down the subject into its most basic elements, explaining those elements, and then showing your reader how they fit back together to create the whole.Even though format is one of the easier parts of the assignment to get right, it is one that is very often neglected. Thank you for your work on the details of this fundamental.

Use transitions to show clear connections between different ideas (e.g. on the other hand, also, consequently, because of this, etc.).In your conclusion, try to leave the reader with something to think about-some little nugget of wisdom that ties everything together.Your introduction is weak, undernourished, and may contain empty words, phrases, and/or sentences. Sharpen your focus. Tell your reader exactly what this essay is about.Break large paragraphs into more palatable chunks. Readers often balk at huge chunks of text and often get lost within paragraphs that are overstuffed with too many ideas.Sharpen your thesis. Look again at what the prompt is asking you to do and address that very thing in your thesis-only far more precisely.

One or more of the supporting details you have chosen to include (quotes or references) fail to illustrate or further support the assertion you are trying to prove.Don't oversimplify this very complex issue. To argue effectively you have to understand and address all the variety and nuance involved in this debate.Use imagery to draw the reader into your narrative. Telling a story in ambiguous terms makes your reader lose interest (the kiss of death).I am not convinced that you actually know your own stance on this issue. Phrases like "I believe," "some people think," and "in my opinion," together with words like "may" and "seem" show a lack of confidence and conviction.Be careful to distinguish fact from opinion. Readers are very astute in sniffing out opinions. Facts can be proven, opinions cannot. Attempting to use opinions to support an important point is a low-level logical error.

Commas are necessary between all items in a series-yes, even the last. For example, "I love apples, oranges, and pears."Review your use of colons. An independent clause must be present before a colon.Do not invert your sentences into the passive voice. Make sure you are writing active sentences in which the subject of the sentence acts on the object, not vice-versa.The titles of short works are put in quotes (i.e. songs, poems, short stories, articles, etc.). Longer works are italicized (i.e. books, movies, newspapers, magazines, works of art, etc.).

Your heading goes in the upper left-hand corner of the first page of your paper. It is double-spaced. Do not place your heading in the header or it will appear on every page.Use the proper format for long quotations (longer than four lines). Consult your handbook or the web for formatting and citation instructions for long quotes.Use a variety of sentence types to diversify your style (e.g. simple, compound, complex, compound-complex).

There should not be any punctuation within your parenthetical citations, and the period goes at the very end of the sentence, ex. (Smith 25).Please review your APA citations and "References" page. You have made several errors in this

- Word options can mimic Essay Grader comment sheets. You can create a feedback narrative template that can be customized (my sample is in the handout packet).
- Disadvantage here is that it can seem even more canned if you aren't sure to add the personal information and essay-specific information to individualize the feedback.
- Web Based: EssayTagger.com While this has great potential and it builds comments as you grade a stack of papers that you can reuse, it is not compatible with WayPoint and students would have to log in to the site to see their feedback. The cost is also $20/month, rather than a one time cost for the App. Also, I don't want to load my students' papers in any service other than Turnitin, which has a WayPoint integration for originality reporting.

Don't want to buy the App?

- EssayGrader demos and downloads: http://www.gatsbyslight.com/
- EssayTagger: EssayTagger.com
- SAS Curriculm Pathways (Writing Reviser and other tools): http://www.sascurriculumpathways.com/portal/
- TeachThought's 20 Grading Apps for the Mobile Teacher:
- http://www.teachthought.com/teaching/20-grading-apps-for-the-mobile-teacher/
- The Next Web's 10 best writing apps for iPad: http://thenextweb.com/apps/2013/08/17/the-10-best-apps-for-writing-on-the-ipad/
- Educational Technology and Mobile Learning's best writing apps for teachers and students: http://www.educatorstechnology.com/2013/02/10-great-writing-ipad-apps-for-teachers.html
- Apps in Education: 11 apps to get students really writing: http://appsineducation.blogspot.com/2011/06/apps-for-getting-students-really.html

Links/Resources