

## **Paper Four: Revision**

**DUE TO YOUR TA BY 9AM ON FRI, DEC 3**

If you write a newspaper story, a grant proposal, or a piece of prose for a textbook, it is *very* likely that the first draft will not be the last. Your deathless prose will go to an editor/reviewer who will declare that the work is not acceptable until you do X, Y, and Z. You can moan about the stupidity of your reader. However, if you want the money, the fame, or whatever, you will need to make that specific person happy. It is a very useful skill.

This paper will be somewhat longer than the others because there will be some new material. However, it is OK if substantial chunks come from the original paper (as long as you fix those typos, etc)

### **Step 1: What does your TA want?**

Your TA will hand back your papers marked up with various comments and there may be a section containing clear instructions for revision. Those instructions would include

- 1) One specific question about content, asking for more information.
- 2) Some general comments about stylistic changes (e.g. is the organization clear? How is the grammar, etc?)

If you want to revise a paper that does not have these instructions for whatever reason, you need to get instruction from your TA before you revise.

At least ten days in advance of the due date for the paper, you must give your TA a sentence or two describing your plans for revision. Your TA must agree with the general plan.

### **Step 2: Add new material**

The revised paper must make use of at least two scholarly sources beyond what you used in the original paper. You may already have some extra sources in hand or you may need to go back to the real or virtual library.

### **Step 3: Write the revised paper**

Here are the requirements for this paper:

1. Length is probably about 8 pages.
2. In the revised paper, be sure to correct the problems that your TA identified.

3. You must answer the question posed by your TA (If that looks to be impossible, talk to your TA and maybe the question could change.)
4. You must also expand the paper to include material from two primary sources beyond the source of the original article. This new material might answer your TA's question it might bolster your existing points.

NOTE: If you want help with the revision of this paper you can talk to your TA and/or to the Writing Center. To request an appointment with one of the tutors, send an email at least 48 hours in advance of your desired meeting-time. If your TA seems significantly unhappy with the writing of the first version of the paper it would be **A Really Good Idea** to seek some help. That is the purpose of an assignment that can be revised. IN FACT....You can ask the writing tutors for help with any of your papers. That might be A Good Idea.

#### **Step 4: Write the “cover letter”**

As noted above, to get your paper published or your grant funded, you must satisfy the reader/editor/reviewer. So, you revise the work AND, typically, you write a letter explaining your revisions. The last part of this assignment is to write that letter. Describe what you have changed in the revised paper. Briefly explain how you have answered the questions raised by your TA. If you disagreed with a suggestion, you can say that too (with an intelligent explanation) but remember, here and in your later life, that your job, in this case, is to make the reviewer/editor/TA happy.

Your cover letter should be about a page long (unless you made lots of changes.) It does not need to be in a very formal style. It just needs to guide the reader and persuade the reader that you were listening to the prior round of comments.