

RE-VISIONING

There are at least two important things to consider when making decisions about your revisions:

- keep in mind the intentions of your piece (What do you want a reader to know by reading it) and,
- read your piece with all your senses “on” (listening, seeing, smelling, hearing, feeling, remembering).

Ask and answer questions, such as: *how can I make this piece better? Is this piece really clear?*

STRATEGIES FOR REVISION

- Add to your piece. Look closely at the beginning, middle, and end. Did you leave anything out? Find the heart of your piece and zoom in on it. Make a sketch and then add what's important in your sketch to your writing
- Try starting your piece in a different place, Move parts around.
- Look closely at the **beginning**. Try a different beginning (begin with dialogue, a quote, in the middle of the action, with the setting, by describing setting, etc.)
- Think about the **ending**. Ask yourself, “What is it I want the reader to remember about this piece?” *and* “how can I craft my words to make that happen?”
- Re-read your draft and think about who is telling the story. Is it a character? Is it you? Where are you? How much do you know? Where are you standing?
- Be very careful about the control of time. Stretch out some moments that are important and shrink others.
- Add dialogue and/or dialect to let reader know more about you or the characters.
- Add the inside (internal) stuff. Make sure there are places where readers can see what you are thinking, feeling.
- Look at the genre “examples” and use one to mentor your own writing.
- Turn your piece into a new genre
- Turn a single sentence into an entire page
- Break open some verbs by *showing* not just *telling*
- Zoom-in on the “hot-spots.” Stretch this moment out by adding lots of details (dialogue, action, inner feelings/thoughts, description of place/setting, etc.)
- Find places in your writing where you've used adjectives. Replace these with an action or image that does the work of this adjective to ‘show’ instead of ‘tell’
- Do a detail audit. Check to see that the details you have included ‘matter’ to your piece. Take out all the details that have no significance to your piece
- Ask yourself, “What do I want the reader to feel? What emotions do I want them to have?” Then, look for places where you can craft words that help to make that happen
- Think about the effect of first-, second- or third-person writing. Try writing in different ‘person’ to change the reader’s experience.