



## Wesley College Writing Center

# Don't Turn in Your Essay Until You... REVISE:

- Paper Requirement Fulfilled:** Did you complete all your instructor's requirements for the essay?
- An Interesting Title:** Is your title creative? You didn't just restate your topic, did you?
- Thesis Statement:** Is your thesis statement an assertion? (An assertion is a claim or statement presented as thru that is supported by facts and examples within the paper.) Does your thesis include an overview of the points you make in the paper?
- Introductory Paragraph:** Is your thesis in this first paragraph? Does this paragraph prepare your reader for the rest of the essay's content by giving background information, defining a term that will be used, or identifying a situation related to your topic? Have you given the reader a reason to keep reading?
- Topic Sentences:** Does each paragraph contain a sentence that states the main idea of the paragraph? Do these statements relate directly to the thesis in the introduction?
- Paragraph Support:** Are there enough examples in each paragraph (at least three)? Do your examples support the main idea in the paragraph within your paragraph well? Make sure your examples are not repetitive!
- Good Transitions Between Ideas in a Paragraph:** Do you use transitional words, phrases, or sentences to connect ideas and examples within your paragraphs? (Transitions are words and phrases like *first*, *second*, *for example*, *also*, *however*, *in addition*.)
- Good Transitions Between Paragraphs:** Do you use transitional words, phrases, or sentences to begin or end paragraphs to show how the topics of each paragraph relate?
- Analysis:** Are your examples in each paragraph followed by at least one statement that shows how your supporting material leads to a point of view, change of perception, or other result that you alluded to in your thesis? *Don't save this for the conclusion only!*

(TURN OVER)

- Effective Structure:** Are your paragraphs organized in a way that strengthens your points? Did you save the best for last or did you find it necessary to grab the reader with important information in the first paragraph?
- First Person or Third Person:** If you wrote a research or other formal paper, it should be in third person or first person plural. Third person: *he, she, it, they, the author, the expert*. First person plural: *we*. If you wrote an informal essay, such as a narrative or description, it can be in first person (*I, me, we*), but double check with your professor. Be sure NOT to use second person for any academic paper unless requested to do so. Second person: *you, your*. (Note: This handout is written in second person to give directions.)
- Good Conclusion:** Does your concluding paragraph give the reader a sense of completion? Does it make a final statement that summarizes your thesis, examples, and point of view? Does it go beyond your introduction to state a further conclusion? Does it end with clincher that will make your audience think more about the topic?

## **Don't Turn in Your Essay Until You... EDIT:**

### **WAIT UNTIL ALL YOUR REVISING IS DONE BEFORE YOU EDIT!**

- No Punctuation Errors:** Are your commas in the right place? Did you use that semicolon properly?
- No Grammatical Errors:** Have you eliminated all run-on sentences and sentence fragments? Do your subjects and verbs agree?
- Concise, Well-Written Sentences:** Are there words you can remove from your sentences without changing their meanings? Do any of the sentences sound awkward when read aloud? Do you vary sentence structures between simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex?

Reference: Frederick Community College Writing Center, Frederick, MD  
WRITINGCENTER.Handouts.Don'tTurnInYourEssayUntilYou....CFS.7.22.08