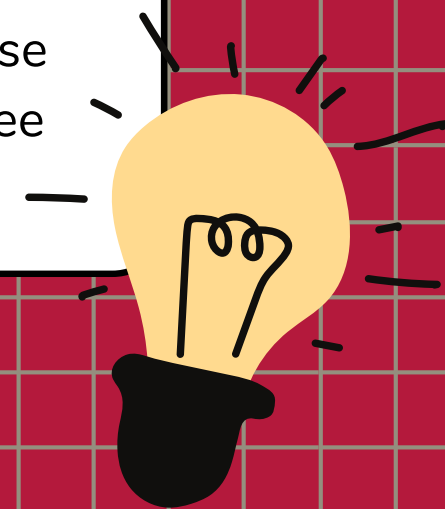# The Revision Process

Revising an essay consists of finding meaning in your own writing and structuring it appropriately. It is made continually while writing, and not in a linear fashion; because it's a process of discovery. The following model presents the revision process in three stages: describing, judging, and selecting.

To describe the purpose of your essay ask:
1. What am I trying to say or show in this section?
2. What do I want the audience to think or do?
3. How much does my audience know about the topic?
4. What does my audience expect?
5. What are you trying to do in each section? For this you must identify rhetorical or logical strategies, like supporting, defining, contrasting, describing, evaluating, specifying, etc. For example, instead of saying "I'm writing about…", you should say "I'm defining, contrasting, or supporting…".

DESCRIBE YOUR GOALS

Identify what you want to say, your audience and how it will be said.

JUDGE STRATEGIES

Determine how well you achieve your content goals, approach your audience, and use rhetorical strategies.

Identify what is missing from your writing by judging sufficiency, relevancy, validity, clarity, and coherence.
1. Do I have too much or not enough information?
2. How does this information or section relate to my topic?
3. Do I have sufficient credible sources to support my ideas?
4. Do I provide enough context for my research?
5. Does each section in my essay relate to each other? How are they related to each other? Are my ideas strategically organized so that they will provoke in my reader the reaction I want them to have?

After you clearly and specifically identify the problems with your essay, plan on how to fix what's missing form your work. You can experiment by adding, removing, reordering, rewording, and modifying ideas until you discover the best way to design your essay. When testing out revisions, consider how each technique impacts your work by remembering your writing goals.

SELECTING AND TESTING OUT REVISIONS