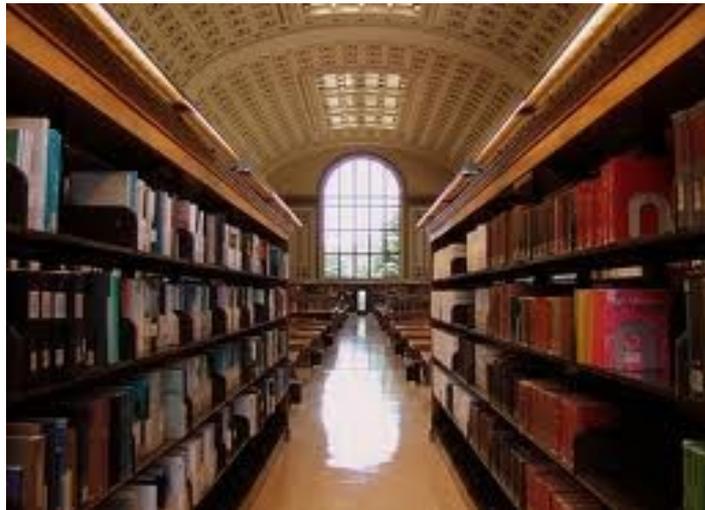


College Writing 101

Assessing Your Own Writing



Assessing Your Own Writing

I. Attendance

II. Assessing Your Own Writing

**I. Individual Response to Essays -
can be found on turnitin.**

Assessing Your Own Writing

- Assessment is a part of our everyday lives.
- Teachers, Supervisors, parents, relatives and friends all assess us in different ways for different things.
- Writers need to assess their work (step back and see it with a **CRITICAL** eye.



Assessing Your Own Writing

- Assessing the Writing You Do for Yourself: - **DON'T**
- Assessing the Writing You Do for Others:
What works?
What still needs work?
Where do I need to say more (or less)?

Writing in Community

- When we write, that immediate response is missing, so we need to seek out responses from readers to help us revise
- Seek out people you trust, such as your instructor or trained writing center tutors/consultants

Writing in Community

Elements for Getting Response:

- Title
- Beginning
- Thesis
- Support
- Documentation
- Organization

Writing in Community

- Conclusion/Ending
- Stance
- Rhetorical Situation
- Audience
- Purpose
- Genre

Writing in Community

Revising:

- Revision should take place on several levels, from global (whole text issues) to particular (the details).
- Start with the elements that are global (higher order concerns) and gradually move to smaller, more particular aspects.

Writing in Community

- Content, organization, sentence patterns, individual words are all subject to improvement.
- **Revise to sharpen your focus:** examine thesis to make sure it matches purpose (the assignment).

Writing in Community

Revise to strengthen the argument:

- Look at the claims you are making. If some are unconvincing, you may need to provide more information or more support.

Writing in Community

- **Revise to improve the organization:**

Appropriate transitions?

- **Revise for clarity**

Look closely at your title, thesis, terms that

may be unclear. Review your use of quotations, paraphrases or summaries in your text.

Writing in Community

- Check whether your text is clear. Switch audiences. Can you explain your argument to an eight year old, twelve year old audience?
- Read and reread(p309).

Writing in Community

A Note on Rewriting:

Some writers find it useful to try rewriting a draft in various ways or from various perspectives.

- From a different point of view
- For a different audience
- With a different stance

Assessing Your Own Writing

- "Good writing balances ideas and facts, and it also balances abstract and concrete diction. If the writing is too abstract, with too few concrete facts and details, it will be unconvincing and tiresome. If the writing is too concrete, devoid of ideas and emotions, it can seem pointless and dry."

(Alfred Rosa and Paul Eschholz, *Models for Writers: Short Essays for Composition*. St. Martin's, 1982)

Assessing Your Own Writing

Consider the Rhetorical Situation:

- Purpose
- Audience
- Genre
- Stance
- Media / Stance

Assessing Your Own Writing

Examining the Text Itself:

- Consider Your Focus: Your writing should have a clear point, and every part of your writing should support that point.



Assessing Your Own Writing

Consider the support you provide for your argument:

- Your writing needs to give readers enough information to understand your points, follow your argument, and see the logic of your thinking.

Assessing Your Own Writing

- Reasons and evidence you give to support your thesis?
- Key Terms and Concepts you define?
- Is any more description or detail needed?

Assessing Your Own Writing

- Were any comparisons made that would help readers that are unfamiliar with your topic?
- If a narrative was included, was it really relevant to your point?

Assessing Your Own Writing

Consider the Organization:

Analyze the structure- Does your structure easily, clearly allow readers to move through your text?

Are they able to follow your argument?

Assessing Your Own Writing

- What about your ending? Does it help them make sense of what they have just read?
- How do the paragraphs relate to each other? Are those relationships clear?
- Do you vary your sentences?

Assessing Your Own Writing

- If sources were used, have you clearly distinguished quoted, paraphrased, or summarized ideas from your own?
- Consider the words that you used. Concrete words are generally easier to understand than abstract words. Do you define the words that readers do not know.

Assessing Your Own Writing

- **Concrete Words- Concrete** words refer to things we can touch, see, hear, smell, and taste, such as *flowers, chairs, tables etc.*
- **Abstract words/terms** - refers to ideas or concepts; they have no physical referents. i.e. Beauty and fear are abstract ideas; they exist in your mind, not in the forest along with various animals.

Assessing Your Own Writing

- Does your punctuation make your writing more clear or less?
- Incorrect punctuation can make writing difficult to follow or, worse, change the intended meaning:
“eats, shoots, and leaves
or
“eats shoots and leaves”

Assessing Your Own Writing

Finally, you must think about your process.

- Whose advice did you seek while researching, organizing, drafting, revising, and editing?
- What advice did you take?
- What advice did you ignore?

Assessing Your Own Writing

- Analyzing texts critically and completely is helped along by assessing your own writing
- You must ask questions of your text, similar to those others.



Assessing Your Own Writing

- **CONCLUSION**