

### **Encouraging Productive Revision: Responsible Teachers, Responsible Student-Writers**

Like any pedagogical decision, revision requires careful course planning. These recommendations reflect assumptions that genuine revision occurs only in classes that make revision a central tenet of class outcomes.

1. **A Revision-Centered Course:** revised drafts must be the focus, which means that “perfect” texts are less important than students’ attempts to seriously rework and reconsider their ideas and options as writers.
2. **Student Ownership:** although broad guidelines are often appropriate in (FYC), students are more likely to *own* and *invest in* their texts if they choose their own topics. Projects should have authentic audiences.
3. **Revision Accountability:** students must be required to *demonstrate* their revision processes, which means their keeping up with any peer responses activities and having their grades connected to how well they perform on peer response.
4. **Contextual Revision:** revision suggestions and decisions must be contextually purposeful, utterly connected to the specific essay/project. Teacher responses should also be audience-based, not teacher-based.
5. **Productive Peer-Review Activities:** activities that teachers choose should encourage students to look at broad issues (missing information, audience needs/concerns, relevance of topic to current situations/discourses) but also to focus on what “works” in the text. Students should learn to ask their own questions (see handout at <http://personal.ecu.edu/banksw/eng1100/askingquestions.html>)
6. **Revision v. Editing:** teachers should *not* confuse revision with copy-editing/sentence-level changes to texts; likewise, they must make this distinction clear to students.
7. **Revision Reflection:** teachers should engage students in meta-cognitive analyses of their revision processes (i.e., Writer’s Memos).
8. **Evaluation:** teachers should make reference to revisions from previous drafts as part of their evaluation comments/recommendations.