**Revision: High and Low Order Concerns**

**High Order Concerns:**

**Thesis or focus:**

* Does the paper have a central thesis? Is it explicitly stated? Where?
* Is the placement of the thesis deliberate and effective?
* Can you, if asked, offer a one-sentence explanation or summary of what the paper is about?
* Are there areas of the essay that are off-topic?
* Ask someone to read the first paragraph or two and tell you what he or she thinks the paper will discuss.

**Audience and purpose:**

* Do you have an appropriate audience in mind? Can you describe them?
* How will your audience respond to your tone?
* Do you have a clear purpose for the paper? What is it intended to do or accomplish?
* Why would someone want to read this paper? Does your introduction draw your reader in?
* Does the purpose match the assignment?

**Organization:**

* Does the paper progress in an organized, logical way? (Ex. Chronological, Emphatic, Causal, Problem-Solution, Spatial, Simple to Complex, etc…)
* Go through the paper and jot down notes on the topics of the various paragraphs. Look at this list and see if you can think of a better organization.
* Make a brief (reverse) outline. Does the organization make sense? Should any part be moved to another part?
* Do your ideas transition and evolve?
* Ask someone to read the paper. At the end of each paragraph, ask the person to forecast where the paper is headed. If the paper goes in a direction other than the one forecasted by the reader, is there a good reason, or do you need to rewrite something there?

**Development:**

* Are there places in the paper where more details, examples, or specifics are needed?
* What modes are you using to make your points? (Does it Compare or Contrast, Illustrate, Argue, Narrate, Define, Classify, etc…?)
* Have you included alternative perspectives or interpretations? (Planting your Naysayers)
* Is your evidence clear and relevant?
* Do any paragraphs seem much shorter and in need of more material than others?
* Ask someone to read the paper and comment if something is unclear and needs more description, explanation, or support.

**Low Order Concerns:**

**Sentence Level Revision:**

* Look for opportunities to use active verbs and omit excess words.
* Look for opportunities to combine choppy sentences, vary sentence openings, and restructure weak compounds.
* Look for opportunities to choose language more appropriate for the audience and subject.
* Look for opportunities to choose more exact words.
* Read the paper aloud watching and listening for anything that sounds incorrect.

**Final Editing:**

* Ask yourself why you put punctuation marks in certain places. Do you need to check any punctuation rules?
* Check for possible spelling errors.
* Check your MLA formatting.

Smile: You are a draft closer to a polished version of your essay ☺.

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