

How to Revise Your Writing

A first draft can be a messy jumble of half-developed ideas and characters. It's where we try new ways of writing, just to see what might work. When you write a first draft that you really like, you might want to develop it further. Here's how you can revise your writing:

1. Take a break. Put your first draft in a drawer for a few days or weeks. It's easier to revise your writing when you can read it the way a first-time reader would.
2. Get feedback. Ask someone you trust to give suggestions on how to improve it.
3. Reread your writing. Ask yourself: *What is it about?* Answer this question in one sentence to help focus your new draft.
4. Make notes about how you want to revise. Revision, or *re-vision*, is about finding a new and improved "vision" for your writing.
5. Rewrite with your new and improved vision.
6. Edit your work for spelling and grammar.

Expect to revise a piece more than once. Each new draft needs to be the best you can possibly write - then you need to find a way to make it even better. The revision process is a series of rewrites that brings the work closer and closer to a polished work of art.