

## Revising for order of information and consistent terms exercise

Choose a four paragraph passage from a single section (i.e., all from the intro or all from the discussion, not parts of each) of a draft you have composed. This could be any piece of scientific writing—part of a dissertation, a critique of a paper, whatever—but it should be planned or revised for paragraph organization, so that each paragraph makes one point.

Revise the passage for reader ease:

- Identify each word or phrase that's important to your argument or story. The simplest way to distinguish these from the others is to find those that appear more than once in the section. Highlight the first time each appears in the passage.
- Determine whether you explained the relevance and relationship of each key word or phrase to your argument or narrative before this first appearance. Since this is difficult to do with something you wrote (you know the relevance of each term, so it's hard to see whether you explained it), it may help to have someone outside your field assess this.
- If not, revise so that the reason you mention the word or phrase is clear before it appears.
  - If possible, replace the new term with one you've already used.
  - Otherwise, explain the relationship in familiar terms.

Reflect on your revision:

- 1) For what proportion of the new terms and phrases in the passage did you not explain their relevance to your message prior to their use? Did you have someone else identify them for you? If so, how familiar is he or she with your field? How surprised were you at how often you didn't explain relationships? Why or why not?
- 2) How often do you use new terms where you could use words you've already used? Why do you do so? How intentional is it?
- 3) How difficult or easy was this revision process? What do you think would make it easier? Which step was most challenging and why?
- 4) How has this lesson and exercise changed the way you intend to write and/or revise in the future? If it hasn't, why not?

Turn in:

- The original draft
- The revision
- Your answers to the reflection questions