



Connors Writing Center

7 Hamilton Smith Hall • UNH • writing@unh.edu • 862-3272

Checklist for Self-Revision

HINT: Concentrate on the Higher Order Concerns first, then move to the Lower Order Concerns.

Higher Order Concerns

- Have you clearly answered the question posed?
 - Many assignments include multiple questions. Be sure to answer all of them.
- Have you fulfilled all of the requirements of the assignment? (outside sources, page requirement, citation style, etc.)
- Have you stated a clear and appropriate thesis?
- Have you organized the paper around clearly stated main points which relate directly to the thesis? If you're not sure, try making an outline of the paper **as you've written it**, or write the main idea of each paragraph in the margin next to it. Does your structure make sense?
- Have you backed up each claim with reasonable, sufficient support? (data, research, textual evidence, etc.)
- Do you have clear transitions between and within paragraphs?
 - Transitions provide the reader with links between ideas ("flow")
 - Transitions also relate one sentence to another within paragraphs
- Are your sentences clear and concise? Does each sentence contain only one idea?

Lower Order Concerns

- Sentence-level issues (fragments, run-ons, etc.)
- Subject/verb agreement
- Spelling (Watch for homonyms—words that sound the same but mean different things. For example: forth/fourth, weather/whether, our/hour)
- Punctuation
- Appropriate use of words
- Appropriate verb tense
- Appropriate pronoun usage