

Three Stages of Revision*

Conceptual Revision

Reconsiders the big picture and three points of the rhetorical triangle:

- Finds new meaning in experience or understands subject in a new way
- Imagines a different audience
- Assumes a different purpose for writing
- Undertakes a different genre or rhetorical strategy
- Shifts focus radically

Structural Revision

New insights are enacted. Focuses on blocks of text, including arrangement of information chunks and narrative frames. May involve a whole new starting point and complete restructuring of prior draft.

- Adds information (expanding, developing, clarifying)
- Deletes unnecessary, distracting information
- Rearranges information

Stylistic Revision

Focuses on language, sentences, and tone. Ideas generally stay put, but the writer changes the way she or he communicates them.

- Makes audience-appropriate language choices
- Crafts sentences for accuracy, clarity, and effect
- Corrects grammatical, spelling, and typographical errors.

* This document represents a modest revision of Katey Roden's very helpful "Some Modes of Revision."