

Sample Revision Paragraph for Reflective Essay

According to Ms. Valenza, "Revision is the step in the writing process when the magic happens." This is definitely true for my personal essay. Before I revised the essay I was rather satisfied with what I composed, but after, I was ecstatic. First I analyzed my diction using Visual Thesaurus' Vocabgrabber feature. I found out I had overused such words as: make, have, and community. I used Visual Thesaurus to replace these words with more precise choices and now my essay reveals to the reader that I am a more intelligent person due to my range of vocabulary. Next I analyzed each paragraph for the qualities they reveal about me. I noticed that my third paragraph was really all about my family and not enough about me. After some modification, it now reveals that I am a loyal family member who looks out for her siblings. I learned from our interview with the guidance counselor that the most important part of my essay is the introduction. If I don't grab the reader's attention right away, I risk having my application go into the reject pile. I shared my essay with a partner and together we improved the opening making it a bit more mysterious so that the reader wants to find out what happens. I used the same process of sharing to revise my conclusion and now it gives the reader a satisfied feeling and a desire to have me join his/her college. Finally, I had a lot of fun adding hooptedoodle in the form of alliteration at appropriate points in my essay and I believe these additions make reading it more enjoyable, and show I'm a talented writer. I have become convinced that revision transforms a good first draft into a superb piece of writing, but not by magic. It takes dedication, close reading, analysis, and proper tools.