

5. Revise

In this step of the writing process, you will work on parts of your draft that need improvement. Use the peer review form that your classmate completed to help you. Also use your own ideas about how to improve each part of your draft. This checklist includes some things to think about as you get ready to revise.

Revision Checklist

- ✓ Does my beginning catch the reader's interest? Do I state my main idea clearly?
- ✓ Do I support my main idea with at least three strong supporting details?
- ✓ Do I use explanations and facts to elaborate on the supporting details?
- ✓ Does my conclusion sum up the paper well? Have I given the reader something to think about?
- ✓ Do I use linking words and phrases effectively to make the writing flow smoothly?
- ✓ Do I use precise language to make my ideas as clear and vivid as they can be?

PRECISE LANGUAGE

Precise language means words or phrases that are clear, specific, and descriptive. Underline precise language in this paragraph.

Look at the word *animal* in the first sentence.

Would *mammal* have been more or less precise in this sentence? Why?

Writer's Craft: Using Precise Language

Using precise words makes your informative/explanatory text clearer and more convincing. For example, instead of using the word *kind*, you might use the more precise word *sympathetic*. Instead of the word *dog*, you might say *golden retriever*. Now look at the mentor text for examples of precise language.

The woolly mammoth was a huge elephant-like animal that lived in Europe, North America, and Siberia 10,000 to 250,000 years ago. It had shaggy fur and thick layers of fat to keep it warm in the frigid climate. It weighed six tons and towered almost eleven feet high.

Try It!

Revise Your Informative/Explanatory Text

Replacing simple words with more descriptive or precise words is an important part of revising. Practice using precise language with the following paragraph. Replace each underlined word with a more precise, more interesting word. Write your answers on the lines below the paragraph.

Scientists take special precautions when studying mammoth bones. First, they use small brushes to take away any dust and dirt. Then they look at each bone very carefully with a magnifying glass or microscope. The bones are then put in a dry environment where the temperature is the same all the time.

Replace *take away* with _____

Replace *look at* with _____

Replace *put* with _____

Replace *is* with _____

Writing Assignment

Now it's time to revise the draft of your informative/explanatory text. Continue working on a computer or on a separate sheet of paper. Review the assignment, repeated below, and the checklist. Doing so will help you know that you have included everything you need.

Write an informative/explanatory text about the yeti crab, a new species that has been discovered in recent years. Describe what this animal looks like, where it was discovered, and how it is unusual or different.