

# Revising

When revising, consider your story's characters, setting, plot, pacing, and resolution. Your goal is to determine whether you've achieved your purpose and effectively expressed your story idea to your audience. The questions, tips, and strategies in the following chart can help you revise and improve your draft.

## SHORT STORY

Ask Yourself	Tips	Revision Strategies
<p>1. Does the story's exposition introduce the main characters and establish the setting? Does it initiate the central conflict?</p>	<p>▶ <b>Highlight</b> details about the main characters and setting. <b>Draw a wavy line</b> under the event or situation that initiates the central conflict.</p>	<p>▶ <b>Add</b> details about the main characters and setting. <b>Add</b> a sentence that initiates the central conflict.</p>
<p>2. Does the story have a clear point of view? Is the point of view developed consistently?</p>	<p>▶ <b>Underline</b> phrases that indicate the point of view. <b>Label</b> the point of view in the margin.</p>	<p>▶ <b>Delete</b> information that the narrator would not know. <b>Reword</b> sentences to make the point of view consistent.</p>
<p>3. Is the plot developed with actions and decisions that complicate the problem? Does the conflict build toward a climax?</p>	<p>▶ <b>Draw a star</b> by each plot complication. <b>Draw two stars</b> by the story's climax. Make sure that there is a smooth progression of events building toward the climax.</p>	<p>▶ <b>Add</b> actions or decisions that create complications. <b>Add</b> an event, an action, a decision, or a realization to bring about the climax.</p>
<p>4. Does the story use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to develop the plot and characters?</p>	<p>▶ <b>Draw a dotted line</b> under the characters' spoken words or unspoken thoughts and feelings. <b>Put parentheses</b> around descriptive details about characters.</p>	<p>▶ <b>Add</b> dialogue and interior monologue. <b>Elaborate</b> on characters with descriptions of physical appearance, behavior, and actions.</p>
<p>5. Is pacing used effectively to advance the plot?</p>	<p>▶ <b>Draw a box</b> around any details that are unrelated to the central conflict.</p>	<p>▶ <b>Delete</b> any unnecessary details to tighten the pace and move the action forward.</p>
<p>6. Does the story's conclusion resolve the conflict and show the significance of the events?</p>	<p>▶ <b>Circle</b> the sentences that resolve the conflict. <b>Bracket</b> the sentences that show the significance of events.</p>	<p>▶ <b>Add</b> sentences that resolve the conflict. <b>Add</b> a sentence or two to show the significance of events.</p>



### PEER REVIEW

Working with a peer, review your draft. Answer each question in the chart to evaluate how to make improvements. Then, revise your draft, using the tips and revision techniques. If your story is not flowing smoothly, try a new approach to make it more cohesive.

## DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

### FOR STRUGGLING WRITERS

**Advance Plot with Dialogue** Write the fol-

### FOR ADVANCED LEARNERS/AP

**Acceleration** Have pairs of students choose