

Revision – “Megan Meier and the MySpace ‘Joke’”

Team Facilitator: Your responsibility is to ensure the others in your group understand how to implement each task. Furthermore, you are also responsible for ensuring that your group members stay on task.

Team Collaborator: Your responsibility is to ensure that you complete each task on the revision sheet. Furthermore, you are responsible for keeping yourself on task.

- You will be revising your own paper, but should you need assistance with any aspect of the revision, seek the advice of your teammates.
- Have the actual editorial on your desk so you can reference it during the revision process.

Task 1: Check the entire document to make sure you have all MLA formatting requirements correct.

1. pagination
2. header
3. assignment title
4. margin size
5. font type and size
6. spacing

Task 2: Make sure your paragraph begins with a topic sentence. The purpose of a topic sentence is to introduce what you are writing about to your reader. For the purpose of this essay, it should be something like, “Leonard Pitts appeals emotionally to his audience in order to...” ***If you do not have a topic sentence, write one in at the beginning of your paragraph.***

Task 3: Check and make sure your paragraph has at least 3 examples of textual evidence. ***If you are missing some evidence, go ahead and finish writing that part of the paragraph.***

Task 4: Check and make sure each quote is written into a sentence. In other words, a quote CANNOT stand alone as its own sentence. This is known as a DROP QUOTE...and they make your English teacher’s skin crawl. If you look at the sample paper, you will see how the sample writer used small phrases of evidence within her sentences. This is an effective way of writing in quotes. Also consider...

Another example: *Leonard Pitts wants his reader to realize that this cruel joke was played on a human being. “Megan Meier hanged herself that night” (2). By using her name in that statement instead of “she,” it makes her death more shocking. After all, knowing ‘some girl’ died is sad enough, but actually knowing that “Megan” died is even more emotionally powerful since you are often on a first name basis with people you know, and the death of a friend is more poignant.*

⚠WARNING! ⚠WARNING!⚠ English teacher skin is crawling. Why? The quote above is a ⚠DROP QUOTE⚠

Revised example: *Leonard Pitts wants his reader to realize that this cruel joke was played on a human being. **For example he writes,** “Megan Meier hanged herself that night” (2). By using her name in that statement instead of “she,” it makes her death more shocking. After all, knowing ‘some girl’ died is sad enough, but actually knowing that “Megan” died is even more emotionally powerful since you are often on a first name basis with people you know, and the death of a friend is more poignant.*

By the simple addition of a SIGNAL PHRASE, you have eliminated a VERY SERIOUS error (and made your English teacher much happier). ***Fix any drop quotes by writing in signal phrases.***

Task 5: Make sure each quote of textual evidence has an intext citation beside it in parentheses. ***If you are missing any intext citation, write it on your paper where it needs to go.***

Task 6: Look for places in your paragraph that could use transitions to make the ideas connect more smoothly. ***Add them.***

Task 7: Trade papers with someone in your group. Read the paragraph carefully. ***Make any suggestions that you think would help that writer revise.***