**Let Your Writing Flow: Tips on Revising for Flow**

***An essay that flows is well-organized, well-written, concise, and logical.***

1. **First Drafts**

* An essay is a group of related paragraphs about one main idea.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Essay | Introduction | main idea |
| Body | supporting idea supporting idea supporting idea |
| Conclusion | main idea, the end |

* Just as an essay is made up of related paragraphs that develop a central point, a paragraph is made up of related sentences that develop a central point.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Paragraph | Topic Sentence | main idea |
| Supporting sentences | supporting idea supporting idea supporting idea supporting idea supporting idea |
|

1. **Rereading and Rewriting**

* Number each paragraph in your draft than reread each numbered paragraph and on a clean sheet of paper and explain each numbered paragraph in one sentence.
* By identifying the main points of each paragraph you can then arrange them in the most logical order.

**Questions to Think About**

* *Are the paragraphs in order?*
* *Could any paragraphs be consolidated?*
* *Is there information that could be added to any of the paragraphs?*

1. **Sentence Revision**

* Clear subjects and verbs are the key to effective sentences.

**Example**

**Weak:** *The writing center provides tutoring for all students.*

**Strong:** *The writing center provides tutoring and support in writing, revising and editing for all students.*

* Use **transition words** and **phrases** to help establish clear connections between ideas and ensure that sentences and paragraphs flow together smoothly, making them easier to read.

**Examples of Transitional Words and Phrases:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Time and Sequence:** |
| *Next, later, after, immediately, meanwhile, first, second, third, as long as*. |
|  |
| **Comparison:** |
| *Likewise, similarly, again, also*. |
|  |
| **Addition:** |
| *And, too, besides, in addition, next, also.* |
|  |
| **Cause and Effect:** |
| *Since, as a result, consequently, for this reason.* |
|  |
| **Place:** |
| *There, in between, next to, above, beyond, behind, across from, near.* |