Revision, a part of the composing process, is the practice of making changes in a draft, often to do a better job of achieving a purpose or of engaging an audience. Composers revise at many levels of a given draft, sometimes to craft just the right expression, other times to help sentences work together, and still other times to make large-scale changes involving connections across ideas and rearrangements of major "chunks" of text. In addition, texts that are multimodal in character—involving images, for example, or audio files—require a multimodal revision process in which composers, for example, might increase the clarity of an image, resize it, place it differently in the text, or create a more specific caption that links the image to the words in the text. Moreover, research shows that one of the practices that new college writers find most helpful is revision; as students write their way across the college years, they continue to revise texts they compose for classes and out-of-school writing tasks.

Significance

Revision is both a practice and an art, one that experienced writers benefit from and continue to craft. In addition, experienced writers understand that different kinds of writing tasks may call for different kinds of revision strategies. One way to see what in a text needs to be revised, of course, is by sharing writing with others who can suggest areas that need clarification, development, and/or an artful expression.

Definition

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Resources


