

## SUGGESTIONS FOR REVISING YOUR ESSAY

If you'd like to revise Essay 1, you are welcome to do submit a revision (along with the previous, marked essay) by **noon on October 4**. A revision should be a re-seeing, a re-thinking the essay, not a quick fixing of the errors pointed out. Here are some ways to pay attention to the things you might revise:

- 1) Be sure you understand why you may have scored low on one or more of the rubrics. This will help you see where you need to direct your attention.
- 2) Any highlighting on your essay indicates a major sentence error: a sentence fragment, comma splice, or run-on sentence. These errors are considered most serious because they can confuse the reader; however, they can easily be fixed through end punctuation or changing a fragment to a complete sentence.
- 3) Meet with the instructor if you would like help in understanding the comments or in re-thinking your essay. The Learning Center is another resource for assistance, but begin with the instructor first, since she knows the assignment and her point in the comments in your margins.
- 4) Sometimes it helps to put the marked essay away for a few days and then come back to it. Most of the time, the revisions you need to make are clearer.

### REVISING AT THE SENTENCE LEVEL

What's the problem in each of these examples?

- The many obstacles Gawain went through, like "many a cliff he must climb" (713), being far away from his friends and family, and meeting with the creatures of the wild.
- Gawain knows that he had done wrong by accepting the girdle, this is shown when he "tucked away the token the temptress had left" (1874).
- But he did not rise to a higher moral standing, he slipped in his vows to King and court.
- During Gawain's journey, he encountered beasts he also suffered from cold and starvation.

Do you see the difference in the "tightness" of these sentences?

- Another one of my reasons for my belief of Gawain being a hero is when he shows his persistence when he does not give up on keeping his end of the deal.
- Another reason Gawain is a hero is that he persists in keeping his end of the deal.

Good examples of topic sentences:

- Gawain demonstrates his heroic physical strength at the New Year's celebration when he accepts the Green Knight's challenge.
- A final example proving Gawain is not a hero is his engaging in cowardly actions when facing the Green Knight.
- Gawain's first brave action could be considered courageous, but he was doing what was expected of him.

Good examples of integrated quotations:

- While the lady of the castle continues to tempt him even further by holding Gawain up to the rules of courting—“Who can be cold toward a creature so close by your side” (1780)—sir Gawain is plagued by not knowing how to handle abiding the contradicting rules of chivalry towards the Green Knight, the lord of the castle, and the lady of the castle.
- Upon crossing the threshold, he hears something “like a mill-wheel whirling about!” (2203).
- Gawain looks up at the “great ax” (2265), and “his shoulders shrank” (2267) when the Green Knight was going to strike.
- As Gawain dared to imagine that he could “escape unscathed” (1858) from his predicament, he finally shows that even he “loved his own life” (2368) enough to behave in a very human manner.