

English 9

Revisiting the in-class writing

Now that you have finished *The Iliad* and have a good sense of how the themes work, and now that you have a few more weeks of high school under your belt, it makes sense to go back to this piece to revise. The revision will be a second grade, unrelated to the first grade, and you'll hand in the old version when you hand in the new one.

The essay does not need to lengthen, but it needs to emphasize the required elements. There's no problem if the essay expands, though.

To revise:

1. Read through the handout that served as the prompt for this exercise, noting important points to hit. The introduction should feature both a theme statement and a thesis.

A theme statement is a universal statement that reaches beyond the text: "One prominent theme of *The Iliad* is that pride leads to destruction" is an example of a theme statement.

The thesis is your statement of argument: "Homer shows the effects of pride in Book 1 through characterization and symbolism" is a reasonable thesis. It uses the elements of fiction (character, theme, symbol, style, setting...) in order to make categories for the evidence that follows.

2. Read through the teacher comments, noting what patterns are mentioned. Keep in mind that I may not have marked every instance of a problem—I will have marked and noted the pattern, and it is then up to the student to find the instances to revise.

3. Check to make sure your topic sentences are analytical. Rather than point out that something exists, be sure the emphasis is on how Homer emphasizes the element.

4. Read through the whole essay for an analytical approach. There should not be any sentence in your essay whose purpose is summary. A sentence may provide some background information but should reach to the argument and feel analytical. We should understand why we are receiving every bit of information.

5. Look over the Unlucky 13 list of errors. Ask what questions you have, especially about blending and citing or any pattern that's getting marked a lot in your work.