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Revision and the Writing Process

Undergraduate students are often pressed for time. Nonetheless, good writing is not a linear process that begins with the introduction and ends at the conclusion. Revision and reorganization is almost always necessary. Good revision involves putting yourself in the role of the reader and considering the following questions:

- Have I given my reader specific and relevant context (historical or biographical information) to understand my topic?
- Do I clearly state my argument at the beginning of the paper?
- Can my argument be followed even if my reader is less familiar with the topic than I am?
- Does my paper have a distinct voice? While your ideas should be supported with evidence and well-reasoned, writing should also strive to tell a story.