

English 95

Adding to a Revision

Revision is an opportunity to rethink your essay. Sometimes a revision might completely change the essay, but most often a revision adds to the basic structure of an earlier draft. When you revise your essay you always should ask yourself some basic questions:

- Have I provided my readers with enough background information so that they can understand what I am trying to say?
- Where in my essay would specific examples help my reader to understand what I am trying to say?
- Have I made clear the connection between the different points I am trying to make? Do I need to add specific details to make those connections clear?

Generally speaking, these are the main additions to your essay to consider when revising: background information; specific examples; and explanations and details that make clear how the different parts of my essay fit together.

Adding Background Information

First Draft

Last week, a day after the U.S. Post Office closed for the New Year Holiday, I received a letter from oversea.

Second Draft

My sister is a person who has responsibility with the family and a person who loves and cares for parents, siblings, relatives, friends, and neighbors. For instance, during 1978 the Vietnamese communist government seized assets and wealth of the rich family that was on their lists and they increased tax on the Chinese businessmen; therefore, my parents had the family restaurant closed and lived on what my family got. However, my sister did not want to see that condition happen to my family for a long run nor she did not want my parents wake up early and sleep late on their jobs. She went out and worked as an accountant. My sister brought home her salary each month and gave to my parents. She helped to raise funds for the poor relatives, misfortune neighbors, and friends.

During September 1981, I escaped my country, Vietnam, by boat. I arrived in refugee's camps in Indonesia a few months before my brother's arrival. During that time I was very happy to meet him at the same camp called Galang I in January 1982. It was like a gift God has sent to me. In June 1982, my sister, my nephew, my cousins and her friend fled the country on the same boat. They arrived in refugee's camps in Malaysia . . . My sister, my nephew, and her friend settled in Australia in November 1982. My brother and I were approved by the U.S. Ambassador in December 1982 for immigration to the United States for political reasons since my father is Chinese. A few month before I received that good news, my brother and I had applied to reunite with my sister in Australia, but our application was rejected by the Australian Consulate because we were minors. In June 1983, my brother and I arrived in Savannah, Georgia. Although my sister and I are separated and lived very far from each other, our relationship has not changed. I often contact my sister on the phone and she usually writes me letters and sends me gifts during the holidays.

Adding an Example

First Draft

We shared each other our happiness and sadness. We encouraged each other when we fell into problems. She is the one who knows me the best.

Second Draft (continued)

It was Tuesday afternoon, a day after the U.S. Post Office closed for the New Year Holiday, I went to the front house to check my mailbox.

Second Draft

Moreover, we shared each other our happiness and sadness. We encouraged each other when we fell into problems. I still recall the time when I was in ninth grade, I was not good in Mathematics and always got low grade in test and quiz. Knowing my problem, May, who was excellent in Mathematics, started to come to my home after school and help me with my Mathematics problems. She explained every problem clearly and encouraged me to correct my mistakes. At the end of that semester, with the help of May, I finally got a good grade and passed the examination. After that, whenever we had quiz or test, we would study together and help each other. We shared the reviewing time before test and enjoyed the happy moment that we both got a good grade. Sometimes, we would exchange buying each other our favorite ice cream as a reward. May is the one who knows me the best.

Adding Explanations

First Draft

It is the first time I realized time passed as an arrow because I am twenty-one years old now. I remember when I first came to United States I was only thirteen year-old but now I am a man. I have changed from a boy to a man. Once I had difficulty to accept the fact that I am a man because I was not ready for being a man. As being a man, I am now have more thing to worry about because sooner or later I must learn how to support myself and I know I wasn't ready for that.

Second Draft

It is the first time I have realized time passed as an arrow because I am twenty-one years old now. I remember when I first came to the United States I was only thirteen years-old. At that time I don't have to worry about my living. My parents give me money whenever I need it. My sisters do the laundry and meals for me when I am hungry and all I did was study and play basketball after school. I had not a thing to worry about at that time. After I received this watch, I suddenly realized that I am a man and as a man I have to learn how to support myself and my family in the future. At first I had difficulty being a man. For example, I have to work to support myself and study for my school work. Now I work at Crystal Art Gallery as a part-time bookkeeper and am making one hundred seventy dollars per week. I have realized how difficult it is to earn money these days unlike before when I always asked money from my parents. I still need to live with my parents and work part-time because I can't afford to move out. My expenses are more than I could imagine before and besides my sisters are married. As a result, I have to cook for myself because I have no extra money to eat at restaurants everyday, and I also must do my laundry each week otherwise I have no clean clothes to wear, unlike before when my sisters took care of me.