

Engineering 0012 • Conference Paper
Revision/Sustainability • Spring, 2009

Q. What, exactly, are the expectations for “revision?” What will readers and evaluators expect for our “revision?” What is our “revision” task?

A. Strong revision of any writing requires that a paper’s authors seriously return to the work-at-hand and rewrite for improved clarity, authority, and impact. Revision allows writers to “fix” mistakes—errors in proofreading, grammar, punctuation, design, but revision is more than fixing such “error.” Revision allows for “re- envisioning” how communication might be strengthened by adding to details, data and analysis; by creating more or stronger examples; by continuing to refine and clarify central claims, questions, issues, problems; by establishing and maintaining coherence and cohesion via more specifically articulated connections. Revision might require the smooth integration of new material, with the necessary contextual rewriting to introduce and connect new material. Revision might also involve rearrangement of existing (and added) material for improved coherence and impact. Revision provides the chance to bring each section of your paper and your paper-as-a-whole to 100% clarity and impact.

Q. Should a revised paper be longer than the original version?

A. In most cases, yes. **In this case, definitely yes**—you will be adding a section on sustainability. **You are required to add at least 400 words (approximately one column or one half of a page) on sustainability.** But you may well also be adding details and analysis to other information areas of your paper. Strong revision nearly always requires additional material; sometimes this will mean added sentences in strategic areas, sometimes considerably more, such as significant additions to individual sections, along with explicit connections to that material. Revision might also involve rearrangement of existing (and added) material for improved coherence and impact. Revision provides the chance to bring each section of your paper and your paper-as-a-whole to 100% clarity and impact.

Q. We received a lower grade on our Conference Paper draft than on our previous documents for this assignment. What happened?

A. For many papers, the lower grade is due to a lack of specificity. Your Annotated Bibliography and Outline may have demonstrated a significant topic, sound research and useful organization. For a substantial, complete communication, however, all claims must be well supported throughout, via data, details, examples. Clarity will reach 100% only if extended explanations, applications of data, and technical detail are consistently provided. Also, if you had any problems with formatting, references, error/proofreading, presentation issues affected your grade.

Q. Is it possible to get a lower grade on our Conference Paper Revision than we got on the first version of our Conference Paper?

A. Yes, so be careful. Now that you are writing a revision, with the benefit of your writing instructor's, your Session Chair's, and your peers' reviews, the "bar is raised" for quality of communication and presentation. If your revised paper does not show necessary attention to issues of specificity, supporting data and details, "concrete" examples and applications, format and presentation, your grade can go down, or may not improve as much as you had hoped. Also, your addition/integration of issues of sustainability will affect your grade. So, compose a substantial section on sustainability, and be sure to integrate this issue smoothly into your paper. Take all comments by your reviewers/evaluators/ audience seriously. Re-envision your information and analyses with insight and professionalism.