

Engineering 0011/0711, Fall2009  
Paper Revision FAQ

**Q.** Am I allowed to revise a paper? If I'm thinking about revising, what steps should I take?

**A.** Yes, you may revise papers 1, 2, or 3. **However, you may NOT revise a paper without first contacting your Writing Instructor.** So, if you are considering revising a paper, email your Writing Instructor, letting him or her know that you are considering revising. Your W.I. will then advise you about whether or not revision seems appropriate, given your particular paper/grade. He or she will also set up a revision deadline, and will specify how you are to submit the revision.

**Q.** How are revisions graded?

**A.** The grade for a revision is based on several factors. The overall quality of the revised paper is considered—what are the qualities and achievements of this paper; how well is this paper addressing all assignment requirements and expectations? The move from “original” to revision is also considered—how significant are the revisions? Did the writer address all problems, issues, and/or weaknesses that appeared in the original?

**Q.** Will I automatically get a higher grade on the revision?

**A.** As noted above, revisions are graded on the quality of the paper submitted and on the attention paid to issues as the writer moves from “original” to revision. A writer who opts to revise, but who addresses few of the issues that “brought down” the grade for the original may not see his or her grade increase much, if at all. However, if issues from the original have been carefully and thoroughly addressed, the revision will receive a higher grade.

**Q.** If I revise, what grade is officially recorded for that assignment?

**A.** **If you revise, the final recorded grade for that writing assignment will be an average of your original grade and your revision grade.** If, for example, you earned a 75 on the original and a 90 on the revision, your final grade for that paper will be recorded as 86.

**Q.** Should I definitely revise if I earned a low grade on a paper?

**A.** There is no requirement for revision; whether or not you revise depends on what you and your Writing Instructor decide is the best way for you to proceed, given that you will also have another paper coming due. Usually, your time will be best spent on revision if you earned a low grade and you are certain you can give sufficient time to revision to write a considerably better paper by the revision deadline given to you by your Writing Instructor. What is always useful is to give careful attention to your Writing Instructor's comments, and to incorporate his or her teaching, advice, and reminders into your process of writing all papers.