

For a 3-5-page essay, this exercise should take 45 minutes to one hour.

1. Read the Introductory paragraph. STOP. Make written notes:
 - a. What will be the main point of this essay? If you can't tell, you need to include that in your review.
 - b. Do you know anything about the organization of the essay yet? What gave you clues?
2. Read through the essay completely. Stop each time you think a section of related ideas has been completed.
 - a. Write down a one-sentence statement of the main idea for each section. Does this statement fit with previous ideas of the essay, or are new ideas introduced?
 - b. Are some paragraphs too long?
 - c. Do some paragraphs need more development?
 - d. Are any paragraphs lacking a main idea, largely redundant, off topic, or unnecessary?
3. After you finish the essay, review the summary "map" you have made of the main ideas.
 - a. Were the expectations set up in the introduction satisfied by the remainder of the essay?
 - b. Did the main ideas flow logically from one to another?
 - c. Was material included to validate and support main points?
 - d. Are you as the reader convinced by the material presented in the essay?
 - e. Does the end of the essay coincide with completion of the ideas?
 - f. Can you think of any arguments that would strengthen the essay? If so, mention them in your review.
4. Reread the essay for logical organization: main points, supporting material, and transition between the main ideas.
 - a. Are the main points clear?
 - b. Did any ideas get started—and then were dropped?
 - c. Is supporting material for a main point included near the main point?
 - d. Are subsections of the same point grouped together or scattered?
 - e. Do all paragraphs follow one another logically?
 - f. Can organization, order of the ideas, and transition linkages be improved?
 - g. What material supports the main point(s)? Are you as a reader convinced?
 - h. Does anything seem unresolved for you as a reader?
5. Overall Evaluation
 - a. What parts of the paper did you like best?
 - b. What parts of the paper did you like the least?
 - c. Were some parts hard to follow? Point out those sections.
 - d. Give your recommendations about how best to improve the paper during revision. Try to be as helpful as possible to your class colleague.

More questions? Contact the Avery Point Academic Center at 860-405-9058 or email us at apac@uconn.edu.

