## **FAH101 Revision Workshop**

## Step One: Understanding the assignment

Let's talk about the assignment, and briefly review Prof. Iarocci's discussion of revision.

## Step Two: Understanding what you need to do

Reread the question you chose and write down, in your own words, what it is asking you to do
"For this paper, I need to"
What are the key terms and ideas in the question? Underline them or write them down. Note: Pay particular attention to verbs and to adjectives (i.e., words that modify nouns—for example "critical" in "critical essay").

Do some brainstorming about what kinds of things your essay will need to have in order to
answer the question. What key terms do you need to use? What definitions do you have to
provide? What <b>points</b> do you have to discuss? What <b>facts</b> do you have to include relating to
these points? What <b>background information</b> do you have to give the reader, what <b>sources</b> do
you have to refer to, etc.?
you have to refer to, etc.:
<del></del>

Share your answers with your neighbor. Did you both identify the job, the key terms, and the things that you need to include in the same way?

# Step Three: Understanding feedback

Please take a look at the comments that your TA wrote about your paper.

In your own words, can you describe what suggestions or comments your TA had about paper—i.e., "Meredith feels that I use too many long words and should try to write more simply"? (If your TA pointed out several things, choose up to three issues and describe the your own words.)	9
Why_do you think that your TA wrote these comments? Can you find places in your paper might have made the TA write those comments—i.e., "I think Meredith wrote that becaused the word 'lugubrious' twice"?	

Did your TA have a point? And if so, what can you do to respond to these comments? What changes to your paper are these comments calling for and what could you do to make those changes?

Share your answers with your neighbor. Does he or she agree with your understanding of the issues that the TA pointed out? Does he or she have any comments about your responses to them?

#### Step Four: Revising

Now that you understand what the assignment is, what the question is calling for, and what the feedback has been on your previous work, you have completed a big chunk of the necessary work in revising. Note that you haven't actually done anything to your paper itself yet: all this work has been conceptual and organizational. This is because revising is <a href="much, much more">much, much more</a> about planning and researching and thinking than it is about writing.

Your job in revising will be to take what you've identified about the assignment and use it as a means of critiquing what you wrote in the first version of the paper, using your TA's comments as a guide.

For a first step, try looking at the specific argument you are making. First of all, write down
what you are saying in the paper: "In this paper, I am arguing that"
what you are saying in the paper. In this paper, I am arguing that iii.
Was that easy to do? If it was really hard or undoable, that might be a sign that your argument
is not clear—or that you don't actually have an argument. What do you think?

Compare your argument to what the question is asking you to do. Do they fit together? Are you responding to what the question asks? If not, what parts need to be changed? Or, from another point of view, are there parts of your argument that you no longer like or agree with?		
What extra information waseful for me to know abo	vould be helpful to you in developing this argument? "It would be out"	