

Things Good Writers Do To Revise

Congratulations on your purchase of the Really Good Stuff® **Things Good Writers Do To Revise Poster**—a handy list of revision strategies to help students enhance the intended meaning and clarity of their writing.

Included in this Really Good Stuff® set you'll find:

- Things Good Writers Do To Revise Poster, 19" by 24"
- This Really Good Activity Guide™

Things Good Writers Do To Revise Poster Activities

Share the poster with students. Explain to them that when they revise their writing, they may need to add specific words and sentences, cut unnecessary words, phrases and sentences, and move things around to make the writing clear and understandable to the reader.

Revising is where they get to take their ideas a little further until the writing says just what they want it to.

- Point to the *Elaborate* header on the poster and have a student read the sentences written in black. Explain that by adding the sentence written in red, the reader better understands why the bird was not ordinary. Have them brainstorm additional words or sentences they could add to clarify the meaning. Explain, to elaborate, you add interesting and important details.
- Point to the *Vary Sentences* header on the poster. Have a student read the sentence written in black. Then have the student read the sentence with the revision. Explain to them that by varying the size and construction of sentences, writers can add interest to their writing. Have them brainstorm the beginning and length of a sentence which might come next. Explain, to vary sentences, you use interesting and different beginnings, use statements, questions, and exclamations, and use different sentence lengths to add interest.
- Point to the *Show Your Voice* header on the poster and have a student read the sentences written in black. Have them comment on whether they get a sense of the person who wrote the sentences. Have them read the revision and comment on the difference. Have them brainstorm additional text that might be added to show voice. Explain, to show voice, you can use specific words, colloquialisms, and language that gives the reader a sense of the person behind the writing.
- Point to the *Be Descriptive* header on the poster. Ask students to close their eyes as a student reads the sentence written in black. Ask them to comment on what they saw in their minds. Have them read the sentence with the revision and repeat the above step. Explain to them that by adding descriptive words to their writing, they can help readers paint pictures in

their minds. Have them brainstorm additional descriptive words or phrases that could be added to the sentence on the poster. Explain, to be descriptive, you use strong verbs, interesting nouns, adverbs, adjectives, and descriptive phrases that help readers “see” pictures when they read.

- Point to the *Add, Cut, Reorder* header on the poster and have a student read the sentences written in black. Then have the student read the sentences with the revision. Explain that sometimes it is necessary to add words, phrases, and sentences to make the writing more clear. It may also be necessary to cut words, phrases, and sentences that don't really add anything to the meaning. And sometimes, sentences need to be reordered or moved around to make the meaning more clear.

Things Good Writers Do To Revise Mini Poster

Put the revision strategies at your students' fingertips with a **Things Good Writers Do To Revise** mini poster. Make a copy of the **Things Good Writers Do To Revise** reproducible found in this guide for each student. Three-hole punch the sheets and have them keep them in their writing folders or notebooks for quick reference at school and at home.

Revise or Edit Poem

Students often have trouble knowing just what to do to revise their writing and often get revision mixed up with editing. Give them a handy poem to help them remember the difference between revising and editing. Make copies of the *Revise or Edit Poem* reproducible found in this guide and give one to each of them. Have them place the poems in their writing notebooks to help them as they move through the writing process.

Be Descriptive

Challenge your students to be more descriptive when revising their writing with this cooperative activity. Make copies of the *Be Descriptive* reproducible found in this guide. Divide them into partners and give each partnership a copy of the *Be Descriptive* sheet. Provide them with dictionaries, thesauruses, and synonym finders to help them as they fill in their sheets. Set a time period and allow them to work together to fill in as many descriptive words and phrases as they can find that would help paint pictures in reader's minds. After the time is up, have them share the words they have listed as you write all of the descriptive words on a piece of chart paper. Display the chart paper list in the classroom so they may refer to it for inspiration as they revise.

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Elaborate

I knew right away that this wasn't just any ordinary bird. This bird looked me in the eye and waited for me to respond. Ordinary birds don't say "Hello."

Vary Sentences



I wasn't expecting to see or hear a talking bird in my back yard. Can you imagine? A talking bird! In my backyard!



Show Your Voice

This was the most unusual bird I've ever seen. I'd say I was surprised. I have to tell you, it made my eyes bug out of my head.

Be Descriptive



If I were to describe this bird to you, I'd have to say it was black with an orange beak. as midnight flaming



Add, Cut, Reorder

It didn't take long to get used to this bird. The bird showed up every day around noon and always politely said "Hello." He was like regular clockwork!



Revise or Edit?



**Often times it's hard to know,
When to revise or edit.
But I have learned the difference now,
So you can give me credit!**



**Revising means to make it better,
With details, description, and voice.
Editing means to correct mistakes,
Like spelling and punctuation choice.**



**Revision first to make it clear,
Paint pictures for the reader.
Then edit each and every line,
And be a writing leader!**

Name _____ Date _____

Be Descriptive

Look at the following words and see how many descriptive words or phrases you can think of that mean the same thing but paint a better picture for the reader. Use the back of this sheet if necessary.

said

walked

laughed

little

pretty

sad

funny

big

happy
