

worksheet 1: where you're going

Welcome to the Introduction to

Revise Your Academic Book or Dissertation !

You are in the right place to get past revising and re-revising, and circling about in endless drudgery. It's time to get the attention oriented right.

So you've watched the video and you are here to do step one of the lesson on The Clarity of Taking Aim. Let's use our memory and imagination to reboot, reset, and shift the focus in the direction it needs to go in order revise efficiently, and even with pleasure.

1. What You Hoped For:

Read these questions to stir up memories about what it was like when you first came up with your idea, then set a timer and write for about 5 minutes or just fill up the next page.

What was your original idea or trigger? What made you want to write this piece? What was the connection you made or what did you connect with at that moment?

How did you imagine the topic and material or research—what did it include in your mind? Describe what it would cover and portray.

Describe how you imagined the work would contribute to on-going conversations. What fields would it speak to, as you intended at first, and what would it say?

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Step One: What Did You Hope For?

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2. What You Did

Let's start step 2 with remembering the good times while writing your manuscript

A. What parts did you love writing? What parts felt good to write? Were there any pleasant surprises? What do you feel good about now?

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Let's Dig in a Bit!

B. What 5 parts of the text stand out the most in your mind now as getting mucked up when you were writing them?

IMPORTANT: This refers to actual places in the text that you remember, not general attributes. Not, "I had trouble getting the theory to connect with the examples." But: "Section on Canned Air Futures Speculation." When you wrote your draft, you knew some places were not going well. List them with labels in a way that identifies them in your memory for you. (You'll get a chance to explain more in the next section).

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C. *What happened?* Write an account of what happened in each of your 5 most mucky parts, what you think is wrong and how it went wrong.

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3. Where You Are Going

So, you made it to Step 3: time to imagine your future. Now, there is a lot more that you need to do before you can adequately envision what you are aiming for with your revision. There are several procedures that need to be done in a certain order concerning the draft that you have now.

In fact we need to do a lot more with Step 2, actually, and take a certain kind of detailed inventory of your whole manuscript. But we did a short version of that just now, using your memory. And Step 3 can't properly be done until we do the real and complete inventory of the whole manuscript. But we'll continue on to get a feel for what your priorities look like now. In the next lesson, coming soon, we'll look at what it's like to systematically address your priorities with step-by-step procedures and the right tools for each particular job.

So, on to our version of Step 3 here. And what I want you to do is actually kick back and relax a bit. And just imagine your finished work. See it physically. Imagine what the cover looks like and what the pages look like. How did you imagine the topic and material or research would appear in final form? Are there a lot of descriptions, anecdotes, storytelling, or quotes, are there a lot of diagrams or photos, or theoretical exegeses? How does the text array itself on the page? Just picture that in your mind.

Really take some time to contemplate these things. Really pause and put this all down and think about and even see your finished book.

Now after you've connected a bit with that sense, and don't rush it, write an answer to the following questions about how you want to your text to be:

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A: *What is the biggest change that has been made to your draft that brought it to where it is in your imagination?*

This could be changes in the amount and nature of material presented, stories told, descriptions and depictions and conversations portrayed, the arguments made. It could be anything, but it is single the biggest change that brought your text to this new place as it is in your imagination. Describe this change in as much detail as you can. Here, we may be talking about attributes and qualities of the text, or specific sections, or both.

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B: *What is the 2nd biggest change that has been made to your draft that brought it to where it is in your imagination?*

Describe this change in as much detail as you can.

C: *What is the 3rd biggest change that has been made to your draft that brought it to where it is in your imagination?*

Describe this change in as much detail as you can.

Great Work !!

And great imagination! Now you have some connections to the forward moving hopes and aspirations you started with, and some ideas about what needs to change. And you have started to envision where you are going to go.

Probably more important: you have started the process of uncovering the logic of systematic revision, of breaking things down, and taking a step back to reflect on what you are doing and why. It's just a start, a shift in frame of mind. But it's an important shift, and it's not just for your mind:

It's important to "physically" shift as well. *Revision should not just be a struggle between you and your text.*

There is a third space: the space of reflection, process and technique (such as this worksheet). It is so important to also work outside your manuscript when you are revising your manuscript. I think you can see that clearly now and I'm sure you will always come out of your text to revise in the future. So, good work!

In the full workshop we'll go into way more detail in an exacting process and inventory of your manuscript so that you can get the clarity of aim. Then we'll know a lot about how to proceed.

But we are going to skip ahead next, to the procedure itself, to the step-by-step system where you approach your text component by component, and end the scattershot and endless circling of haphazard revising so that you can make real, targeted progress on a particular part of your text. You'll also get an even clearer look into how and why you want to use the systematic approach that you are learning now for the rest of your life.

See you for the next lesson, and about your finished book:

You are going to get there!

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