Thinking About Your Draft: Higher Order Concerns
Academic Skills Center * Shoreline Community College

Your answers to the questions below can help you assess your writing at a draft or revision stage. If you don't know the answers, consider talking with your teacher or a learning assistant in the Academic Skills Center. If you answer "no" to any of the questions, then that could be the issue to focus on to improve your paper. You should address these concerns before you spend much time on your grammar, spelling, punctuation, or sentence structure!

1. Who is my audience? What do they already know about my topic?

   Before my audience reads this paper, they think ____________________________ about this topic.
   After my audience reads this paper, they will think ____________________________ about this topic.

2. What details (examples, facts, explanations, reasons, causes, effects, etc.) do I develop to support my main idea (or thesis)?

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3. Have I provided enough details (development)? Which ideas need more support? (Each idea must be supported with more than one sentence!)

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4. Does each paragraph stay focused on one idea? Where did I get off the subject?

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5. What transitions have I used? Do I show how each sentence and paragraph is connected to the one before it? How can I improve the flow(coherence) of my paper?

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6. Have I written a good conclusion? Or have I just summarized the main points in a repetitive way?

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