

IS390S Revised Draft

If the watchword of the rough draft was “content,” the central theme of the revised draft is “structure.” For the rough draft, you produced many individually coherent pieces of writing (descriptions of texts, explanations of concepts, theses of arguments, scenes in a fictional work, etc.). These can likely stay more or less unchanged. The goal for this draft is to focus on the overall structure in which these smaller pieces are embedded. Some desiderata for this draft:

- The introduction should articulate a coherent thesis or appropriately set the stage
- The sections should appear in a logical order so that the overall piece flows naturally
- The transitions between sections should make clear why the one was placed after the other
- The introduction to each section should summarize its basic role in the overall piece (a good rule of thumb for academic essays is that you should be able to skim the first sentence of every paragraph and get a coherent summary of the whole argument)

1 Due Date & Upload Instructions

The revised draft is due Friday, December 7 by 11:59 pm. Please upload a Microsoft Word (or LibreOffice) document by attaching it to the assignment item in Sakai under “Assignments.” Please title that document with your last name, an underscore, and the word “revision” (e.g. smith_revision.docx). If you are working in a group, use both names in alphabetical order (e.g. doe_smith_revision.doc) and have each member of the group submit a copy of the hand in.

2 Assignment

There are two items required for this assignment: the revised draft of your project, and a status report reflecting on how that project is progressing:

2.1 Revision (5 pages)

Your draft should be:

- at least 5 pages
- double spaced
- 12 point, Times New Roman font
- 1" margins.

There is no upper limit on the page count. Groups doing projects should continue under the length and form requirements we have individually worked out for your project.

2.2 Status Report

Along with your draft, you should submit a status report consisting of two short paragraphs detailing the current status of your project. This can be appended to the end of your draft document on a new page. Unlike the previous status report, which asked for general issues with the project, the expectation for this draft is that you will have resolved, to the extent possible, the basic structure, argument, and flow. The next assignment for the final draft will focus on stylistic details, which should be the only thing still remaining to work on after this draft. As such, your status report should detail ongoing stylistic details you are grappling with:

2.2.1 Paragraph 1: What is working (100 words)

In this paragraph, please explain which stylistic decisions you like about your current draft. Did you tie the conclusion back in to the introduction in an elegant way? Did you find a particularly good turn of phrase to communicate a complex concept? Were you particularly creative with the sequence of topics in the main body? I recognize this is likely not something you are often asked to reflect on. All the more reason to reflect on it now.

2.2.2 Paragraph 2: What are you still working on (100 words)

In this paragraph, please explain which stylistic elements still don't satisfy you. Have you not found a good story, image, or device for introducing the paper? Does the conclusion not strike a sufficiently profound note? Can you not figure out how to transition naturally from point A to point B in terms of two things you want to discuss? Map out the areas you want to focus on/want feedback on for creating a polished final draft in the next assignment.

3 Revision Policy

Because the revised draft is due on the last day of classes, the revision deadline is this course's exam date. As long as you hand in a draft of the minimum length that addresses the issues identified in your previous status report, you can continue to revise this draft until the ultimate deadline. Note that the final draft is also due on the exam date, so there will not be much time to revise if you complete this assignment too late.