

Sample Online Essay Revision Unit With a Writing Center Session

(Sean Molloy, Tracey Pletz & Eric Scholz -- March 13, 2020)

As we all rework our syllabi for online teaching, this writing course sample unit on revision, including a trip to the [Writing Center](#) may be helpful. (The WC will be open for online sessions when we begin remote classes on 3/25.)

We either have used this unit in an ENG2070 and ENG1500 class or will use it in the next few weeks. We think the pieces fit together pretty well where students have written one or two early drafts and they are revising toward second or third drafts.

First, we assign Murray, Donald M. [Making meaning clear: The logic of revision](#). *Journal of Basic Writing* 3.3. 33-40. 1981. This article is part of our new English Department open education resource [\(OER\) list](#). (The link above is to the WAC/Colostate online version. Here is also a [google doc version](#) with a small added intro note at the top in pink.) Students can write individual responses, respond in teams or on discussion boards. If you use the google doc version, they can bubble comment together in teams right on the text.

Second, we ask students to sign up for a Writing Center session. If they have not used the WC yet, they must [register](#), then [log in](#), then book actual appointments, and also read our WC [Online Starter Kit](#). We ask students to complete [a google doc chart](#) as a separate homework to make sure they get all this done a week or two before their revised drafts are due. (You can also urge students to share your writing assignments and your early draft comments with the writing consultants to guide the sessions.)

Third— after students have submitted their revised drafts— we ask them to report on their Writing Center sessions and reflect on how Murray’s revision advice applied to their actual revision process. Something like:

“Post a google doc here/discussion post/journal entry/mini-essay/reflection, (750-ish words). Include:

- 1) A response/summary/analysis of your writing center session, who you met with, and when. What did you cover? What was useful? What did not work so well?
- 2) Go back and look at Murray. Think about his ideas on revision and apply them to your writing session and your actual revision process for your revised draft.”