

Due: Wed October 9

Formatting requirements: two to three double-spaced pages in 12 point Times New Roman font with one inch margins all around. On the top right hand corner include your name, the date, and “Revision Draft.” Also include page numbers in a footer on the bottom right hand corner of the document. Finally, your paper **must** be stapled.

One of the primary learning goals of this course is to encourage students to reflect on the writing process as a mode of thinking and learning that can be generalized across a range of writing and thinking tasks. And from the syllabus and the time we have devoted in class to revision, you know that revision is essential to the work we do in this course.

The purpose of this handout on revision is to make you more conscious of your revision process and to enforce the strategies and techniques you learned—the things you did to make your writing more effective—during the revision process

In your revision of your Merrill Narrative I want you to read and integrate the Conn Hallinan speech (on eCommons), Lourdes Martínez-Echazabal’s film *Honoring the Past, Building the Future*, the letter written by Merrill alumna Celest Blau-Joki and the two paragraphs I had you read about the nature of Merrill and the Merrill ethos (see original assignment handout)

So, for your revision do the following:

1. Re-review, or re-read your sources (listed above) once again, focusing on the parts you may have skipped before or had a hard time fully understanding. Take notes as you read or review the film noting specifically what this re-reading/reviewing enables you to understand, what new meanings, insights and connections to your experience you are able to glean from this re-reading and/or re-viewing

2. Create a Revision Plan

Now that you have revisited the sources, create a plan of action for your final revision. Formulate a plan; list some ideas that you have for re-writing key sections you will be focusing on. Perhaps look up words you do not know in the dictionary. You can read through your essay noting the kinds of discursive moves you made each time you quoted one of the sources. Ask: how did I use the film, letter, Hallinan speech, or descriptions of Merrill ethos here and there, what was the function of using this quote here and that key concept there? Do an outline of this—your engagement with the source material—throughout your essay. In step one I ask you to review the sources and this time pay particular attention to the parts that were hard for you to understand or difficult the first time around. Now in your revision, I strongly encourage you to bring in some of those difficult passages into your essay.

3. Revise Your Merrill Narrative

From your reading of our course syllabus you know that revision requires you to re-see or rethink your essay in light of the reading, writing, and discussion about your topic or subject. You also know from our course discussions that revision in this class means reworking your essay rather than just “fixing” what you have begun. I will read your final Merrill Narrative along with your first draft and look for “substantive” revision or evidence that you have used our core events, class discussions, and reading to think deeply about Merrill College’s mission and how you fit in. You don’t have to have found your place within Merrill already, yet I do expect to see evidence in your essay of a serious search.

As always, give it your best shot, and good luck!