The goal of this exercise is to work on final editing strategies. Do these exercises one paragraph at a time:

1. Copy the paragraph onto a new page, and separate the sentences into a bulleted list.

2. Identify each sentence as short, medium, or long.

3. Do you have good variety of sentence length? If so, move on. If not, either try to combine short sentences or break up long sentences to achieve a balance of different sentence lengths.

4. Determine how each sentence relates to the one above or below it. If the relationship isn’t clear, you may find it useful either to change the sentence order or to revise at least one sentence in order to ensure logical flow.

5. Underline every verb in the paragraph. Look at the verbs and decide whether or not they are active and interesting. By this, I mean, do the verbs by themselves suggest a story? If a lot of your verbs aren’t particularly interesting (forms of “to be,” “to have,” and “to do”), try to replace them with verbs that are more expressive. By the way, if you have a sentence that doesn’t have a verb, please add one!

6. Check your use of articles (a, an, the). Are they all correct? If not, add or revise them as necessary.

7. Look at the first sentence in the list (the lead sentence in the paragraph):
   - Does it state the main idea of the paragraph? If not, revise it or write a new lead sentence.
   - Does it show how that main idea directly supports the thesis? If not, revise it to show that relationship.

8. Starting with the last sentence, read each sentence carefully and ask yourself two questions:
   - Does this sentence make sense by itself? If not, change it.
   - Do I like the way this sentence sounds? If not, try changing the wording.

9. Remove the bullets and put your revised paragraph back together.

Hopefully, you’ve learned a lot about how you write under pressure and why you received the grade you did for the essay portion of your test.
Model for Single-Paragraph Revision

Bullfrogs are the biggest and most aggressive frogs in my pond. In the summer when the humidity level is high, all sorts of frogs and toads are sitting at the top of the water. When my siblings and I are visiting the pond, we try to spot the biggest frogs in order to catch them. While looking for frogs to catch, we always notice that the biggest are the bullfrogs. After they are caught, the frogs are carried to a bucket. During the carrying process, the bullfrogs are mean. One thing the bullfrogs do is hiss at their captors. This hissing is loud and catlike. Sometimes they even try to attack our hands when we are taking them out of the net. No other frog or toad in our pond is like this.

• Bullfrogs are the biggest and most aggressive frogs in my pond.
• In the summer when the humidity level is high, all sorts of frogs and toads are sitting at the top of the water.
• When my siblings and I are visiting the pond, we try to spot the biggest frogs in order to catch them.
• While looking for frogs to catch, we always notice that the biggest are the bullfrogs.
• After they are caught, the frogs are carried to a bucket.
• During the carrying process, the bullfrogs are mean.
• One thing the bullfrogs do is hiss at their captors.
• This hissing is loud and catlike.
• Sometimes they even try to attack our hands when we are taking them out of the net.
• No other frog or toad in our pond is like this.
More questions? Contact the Avery Point Academic Center at 860-405-9058 or email us at apac@uconn.edu.