

Tips for the Revising of a College English Essay

By Paul Hawkins

1. The main thing that I have stressed is that to receive a change in grade from me, you have to make a change (my comments on the first draft may directly point you in one or more of these directions):

Amplify (increase) the discussion in different paragraphs

Add an additional quotation, or if you already have 3, it could be a 4th or 5th example as direct reference

Reorganize the discussion (changing the order of the paragraphs, and adding transitional sentences to the beginnings or ends of paragraphs to make links between ideas clear; in some cases, you may even need to move information that you currently have in one paragraph to another)

Add a new paragraph, that reflects further thought and extends your argument by developing another topic sentence (since most of you gave me 3 body paragraphs, and my assignment always says "3-4 body paragraphs," this is an easy way to make a substantial change that also shows that your argument is and can be extended)

Key word there: Good essays are essays in which someone is

to someone else. Perhaps you need to reconsider who your is and what your . When you write an essay for a class, of course that's

(and your purpose is to get a good grade). Traditionally, students in English, though, are asked to write as if for an anonymous reader, and the advice I was given when I was a student was, "write for a , but perhaps not as recently or as deeply as you have, and who of it, so you want to that reader that your view is the best one—or at least, that your view is a good one." Your essay will have more even if it has this basic sense of purpose—to to change their view and see the work as you do. It could also be helpful if you think of your audience as

an intelligent younger sibling

a close friend

yourself: on some level, I think writers of literature often write for themselves, and literature should speak to us about important human issues—e.g., love, life, and death.

We can write essays on powerful texts to clarify what these issues are for us.

Give your revised version a

It's good to start with a , something that grabs the reader's attention.

Other opening strategies include the following: "use a quotation; relate an incident; create an image; ask a question; state an opinion"¹

As for , here are some strategies: "summarize the paper; echo the

introduction; create an image; use a quotation"²; one first draft I re((l) Td)-4(r)]] TIT@12 012 792 reW*

In *Henry 4 Part 1*