

Agora's Essay Revision Checklist

Clarity

- ☐ A stranger could understand my story without additional context
- ☐ No unexplained jumps in logic or chronology
- ☐ Technical terms are explained or avoided
- ☐ Each paragraph connects clearly to the next

Voice

- ☐ Essay sounds conversational when read aloud
- ☐ No sentences longer than two breaths
- ☐ Rhythm varies throughout
- ☐ Sounds like me, not like someone trying to impress

Precision

- ☐ Cut all empty filler words (very, really, quite, etc.)
- ☐ Converted zombie nouns to active verbs
- ☐ Replaced passive voice with active
- ☐ Replaced vague words with concrete specifics

Efficiency

- ☐ Essay is 10% shorter than first draft
- ☐ Every paragraph serves a clear purpose
- ☐ No repetitive ideas
- ☐ No decorative sentences

Specificity

- ☐ Contains details only I could write
- ☐ Shows concrete moments, not abstract claims
- ☐ Names specific things (not "books" but "*The Stranger*")
- ☐ Nobody else could claim this essay as theirs

Structure

- ☐ First sentence hooks immediately
- ☐ Each paragraph ends with purpose or momentum
- ☐ Conclusion provides insight, not summary
- ☐ The essay feels complete

Feedback

- ☐ Three readers have reviewed it
- ☐ All confusing sections have been rewritten
- ☐ Generic phrases have been replaced
- ☐ Someone unfamiliar with my story understood it

