The editing/revising stage is when you go over your draft and identify areas of improvement then make the changes that improve your draft. For lengthy, important compositions, you will probably edit/revise several times.

**STRATEGIES FOR READING YOUR DRAFT:**

1. Give yourself some time between writing the draft and editing/revising. You need to come back to your work after a break to be able to see it with fresh eyes in order to catch errors.
2. Read the draft over slowly, as if it had been written by someone else.
3. Don’t be too concerned about mechanics (spelling and grammar) yet, unless there are sentences that are incomprehensible and need to be fixed right away.
4. Concentrate on the content, organization, and style. Is your argument clear and convincing? Are your points presented in an order that makes sense? Are your points supported with enough evidence? Make notes on your draft.

**STRATEGIES FOR REWRITING YOUR DRAFT:**

1. Keep a positive attitude: mistakes are good because they teach us! Have fun playing with what you’ve discovered in the drafting process.
2. Start by fixing the big problems. If your thesis doesn’t hold up, then you’ve explored and learned! If necessary, go back to the brainstorming stage to rethink your thesis. Another big problem might be inadequate support for your points. Go back to the research stage to gather this evidence.
3. To improve the organization of your paper, move entire paragraphs around, rearrange sentences, delete any unnecessary points or evidence, fill in important omissions, write new transitions for the new order.
4. Pay attention to paragraphing: Does each paragraph clearly state one single idea? Is that idea developed enough for the reader to understand it? Are all the sentences related to that idea? Have you illustrated that idea with examples, description, facts, etc? Do the transitions between paragraphs guide the reader from idea to idea?