**Unit 5:** Freedom From Reconstruction to World War II (1877-1939)

**Essential Question:** What do policies and programs meant to Americanize immigrants reveal about American identity and how are these policies and programs, and in turn, conceptions of American identity, shaped by immigration?

**Independent Investigative Research Project**

**Phase Ten**

**Phase Ten**: Use feedback and self-reflection to conduct additional research and revise/edit the first rough draft and produce a Second Rough Draft

**Why Revision?**

**Rewriting is the essence of writing well—where the game is won or lost.**

—William Zinsser

Writing is a process of discovery, and you don’t always produce your best stuff when you first get started. So revision is a chance for you to look critically at what you have written to see

* if it’s really worth saying,
* if it says what you wanted to say, and
* if a reader will understand what you’re saying.

### **What steps should I use when I begin to revise?**

* Wait awhile after you’ve finished a draft before looking at it again. When you do return to the draft, be honest with yourself, and don’t be lazy. Ask yourself what you really think about the paper.
* Check the focus of the paper: Is it appropriate to the assignment? Is the topic too big or too narrow? Do you stay on track through the entire paper?
* Think honestly about your thesis: Do you still agree with it? Should it be modified in light of something you discovered as you wrote the paper? Does it make a sophisticated, provocative point, or does it just say what anyone could say if given the same topic? Does your thesis generalize instead of taking a specific position? Should it be changed altogether?
* Think about your purpose in writing: Does your introduction state clearly what you intend to do? Will your aims be clear to your readers?

### **What are some other steps I should consider in later stages of the revision process?**

1. Examine the balance within your paper: Are some parts out of proportion with others? Do you spend too much time on one trivial point and neglect a more important point? Do you give lots of detail early on and then let your points get thinner by the end?
2. Check that you have kept your promises to your readers: Does your paper follow through on what the thesis promises? Do you support all the claims in your thesis?
3. Check the organization: Does your paper follow a pattern that makes sense? Do the transitions move your readers smoothly from one point to the next? Would your paper work better if you moved some things around?
4. Check your information: Are all your facts accurate? Are any of your statements misleading? Have you provided enough detail to satisfy readers’ curiosity? Have you cited all your information appropriately?
5. Check your conclusion: Does the last paragraph tie the paper together smoothly and end on a stimulating note, or does the paper just die a slow, redundant, lame, or abrupt death?

**For additional support on making revisions, check out the following website:**

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/revising-drafts/>