# Revising, Editing, and Proofreading:

A Three Step Framework for Powerful Clarity



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Successful revision creates work that is as effective as possible.

- Readability
- Clarity
- Impactfulness
- Readiness to Publish

# Revision, Editing, and Proofreading

#### **Before**

A piece of written work can be created by a very good writer to be effective by keeping in mind the three step process of REP. They can create a written work which is successfully revised when it accomplishes all they set out to accomplish, includes no words that are unimportant or take away something from your purpose and allows the writer to clearly make their meaning known. As a first step, making sure to structure the work with an outline before writing it means that you will have a framework to include details that support your central thesis. Once the first draft is complete it is time to begin the process of REP. The title also needs to fit with the content of the written work. Revision is a very important process that cleans up and refines the rough draft into something worth being proud of. The word revision can be used to refer to the first step as well as the entire process.

#### **After**

• By considering the three step process of revision, editing, and proofreading (REP), a skillful writer can craft an effective written work. A successfully revised work accomplishes all the writer intended to achieve, includes no words that are unimportant, and allows their meaning to be clear. Once the first draft is complete, it is time to begin the procedure of revising, a word that can be used to refer to the first step as well as the entire process. Revision is a vital tool, which refines the rough draft into a product of which to be proud.

# Sample

• A piece of written work can be created by a very good writer to be effective by keeping in mind the three step process of REP. They can create a written work which is successfully revised when it accomplishes all they set out to accomplish, includes no words that are unimportant or take away something from your purpose and allows the writer to clearly make their meaning known. As a first step, making sure to structure the work with an outline before writing it means that you will have a framework to include details that support your central thesis. Once the first draft is complete it is time to begin the process of REP. The title also needs to fit with the content of the written work. Revision is a very important process that cleans up and refines the rough draft into something worth being proud of. The word revision can be used to refer to the first step as well as the entire process.

#### The Framework of REP

Revision, Editing, Proofreading

#### Framework

- Strategic approach to ensure
  - clarity of structure and purpose
  - each word, letter, and punctuation is important and used well
  - the work is accessible for others to read and understand

#### Revision

· major structural, organizational, and logical improvements

#### Editing

• each word, phrase, and sentence is as effective as possible.

#### Proofreading

• presentation readiness, 'fixing errors'

# Sample

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# Revision: Big Picture Stuff

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## Revision: Sentence by Sentence

- A piece of written work can be created by a very good writer to be effective by keeping in mind the three step process of REP.
- What is the purpose of this sentence?
  - Thesis

- Does it contribute to overall work?
  - Yes

- Would it be better placed elsewhere?
  - No

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## Revision: Sentence by Sentence

- They can create a written work which is successfully revised when it accomplishes all they set out to accomplish, includes no words that are unimportant or take away something from your purpose and allows the writer to clearly make their meaning known.
- What is the purpose of this sentence?
  - Supports the thesis
    - explaining effect of idea introduced in previous sentence

- Does it contribute to overall work?
  - Yes

- Would it be better placed elsewhere?
  - No

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## Revision: Sentence by Sentence

- As a first step, making sure to structure the work with an outline before writing it means that you will have a framework to include details that support your central thesis.
- What is the purpose of this sentence?
  - Importance of structure to writing

- Does it contribute to overall effectiveness of this section?
  - No

- Would it be better placed elsewhere?
  - Yes

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## Revision: Sentence by Sentence

 Once the first draft is complete it is time to begin the process of REP.

- What is the purpose of this sentence?
  - When

- Does it contribute to overall effectiveness of this section?
  - Yes

- Would it be better placed elsewhere?
  - No

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## Revision: Sentence by Sentence

• The title also needs to fit with the content of the written work.

- What is the purpose of this sentence?
  - Importance of a good title

- Does it contribute to overall effectiveness of this section?
  - No

- Would it be better placed elsewhere?
  - Yes

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### Revision: Sentence by Sentence

- Revision is a very important process that cleans up and refines the rough draft into something worth being proud of.
- What is the purpose of this sentence?
  - Importance of process

- Does it contribute to overall effectiveness of this section?
  - Yes

- Would it be better placed elsewhere?
  - No

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## Revision: Sentence by Sentence

- The word revision can be used to refer to the first step as well as the entire process.
- What is the purpose of this sentence?
  - Further definition/clarity

- Does it contribute to overall effectiveness of this section?
  - Yes

- Would it be better placed elsewhere?
  - Yes

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## Condensing Sentences

#### **Before**

Once the first draft is complete
it is time to begin the process
of REP. The word revision can
be used to refer to the first step
as well as the entire process.

#### **After**

• Once the first draft is complete it is time to begin the process of REP, which can be used to refer to the first step as well as the entire process.

• A piece of written work can be created by a very good writer to be effective by keeping in mind the three step process of REP. They can create a written work which is successfully revised when it accomplishes all they set out to accomplish, includes no words that are unimportant or take away something from your purpose and allows the writer to clearly make their meaning known. Once the first draft is complete it is time to begin the process of REP, which can be used to refer to the first step as well as the entire process. Revision is a very important process that cleans up and refines the rough draft into something worth being proud of.

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- Clarity:
  - How well can the reader understand the meaning?

- Impact:
  - How powerfully does the text deliver the message?
- Readability:
  - How easily can the reader move through the section?

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# Clarity

#### **Before**

 A piece of written work can be created by a very good writer to be effective by keeping in mind the three step process of REP.

#### **After**

• A piece of written work can be created by a very good writer to be effective by keeping in mind the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP).

## Editing: Sentence Structure

• A piece of written work can be created by a very good writer to be effective by keeping in mind the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP). They can create a written work which is successfully revised when it accomplishes all they set out to accomplish, includes no words that are unimportant or take away something from your purpose and allows the writer to clearly make their meaning known. Once the first draft is complete it is time to begin the process of revising, which can be used to refer to the first step as well as the entire process. Revision is a very important process that cleans up and refines the rough draft into something worth being proud of.

# Editing: Passive Voice

• A piece of written work can be created by a very good writer to be effective by keeping in mind the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP). They can create a written work which is successfully revised when it accomplishes all they set out to accomplish, includes no words that are unimportant or take away something from your purpose and allows the writer to clearly make their meaning known. Once the first draft is complete it is time to begin the process of revising, which can be used to refer to the first step as well as the entire process. Revision is a very important process that cleans up and refines the rough draft into something worth being proud of.

## Editing: Passive Voice

- Passive voice
  - Usually requires more words, focus on the action
    - Active: The brakes were slammed on by Mike when he saw the squirrel.
- Active voice
  - Usually more concise and effective, focus on the subject
    - Active: Mike slammed on the brakes when he saw the squirrel.

### Passive Voice to Active Voice

#### **Before**

• A piece of written work can be created by a very good writer to be effective by keeping in mind the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP).

#### **After**

• A very good writer can create a piece of written work to be effective by keeping in mind the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP).

### Passive Voice to Active Voice

#### **Before**

• A piece of written work can be created by a very good writer to be effective by keeping in mind the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP).

#### **After**

• A very good writer can create a piece of written work to be effective by keeping in mind the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP).

### What is the focus of the sentence?

**Before** After

• A very good writer can create a piece of written work to be effective by keeping in mind the three step process of step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP).

### What is the focus of the sentence?

#### Before

• A very good writer can create a piece of written work to be effective by keeping in mind the three step process of step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP).

#### **After**

• By keeping in mind the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP), a very good writer can create a piece of written work to be effective.

## Replacing Weak Phrases with Powerful Words

#### **Before**

 By keeping in mind the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP) a very good writer can create a piece of written work to be effective.

#### **After**

• By keeping in mind the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP) a skillful writer can create a piece of written work to be effective.

## Choosing the 'Best' Word

#### **Before**

 By keeping in mind the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP) a skillful writer can create a piece of written work to be effective.

#### **After**

• By keeping in mind the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP) a skillful writer can craft a piece of written work to be effective.

## Economy of Language: Minimizing Prepositional Phrases

#### Before

 By keeping in mind the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP), a skillful writer can craft a piece of written work to be effective.

#### **After**

• By keeping in mind the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP), a skillful writer can craft an effective written work.

## Economy of Language: Minimizing Prepositional Phrases

#### Before

 By keeping in mind the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP), a skillful writer can craft a piece of written work to be effective.

#### **After**

• By keeping in mind the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP), a skillful writer can craft an effective written work.

## **Avoiding Colloquialisms**

#### **Before**

 By keeping in mind the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP), a skillful writer can craft an effective written work.

#### **After**

• By considering the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP), a skillful writer can craft an effective written work.

#### Before

 A piece of written work can be created by a very good writer to be effective by keeping in mind the three step process of REP.

#### **After**

• By considering the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP), a skillful writer can craft an effective written work.

#### **Before**

A piece of written work can be created by a very good writer
 to be effective by keeping in mind the three step process of

#### **After**

By considering the three step process of revision, editing an proofreading (REP), a skillful writer can craft an effective written work.

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# Editing: Breaking the Sentence Down to Parts

#### Before

• They can create a written work which is successfully revised when it accomplishes all they set out to accomplish, includes no words that are unimportant or take away something from your purpose and allows the writer to clearly make their meaning known.

#### **After**

• They can create a written work which is successfully revised when it accomplishes all they set out to accomplish, includes no words that are unimportant or take away something from your purpose and allows the writer to clearly make their meaning known.

## Passive Voice to Active Voice, Avoiding Unnecessary Verbs

**Before** After

They can create a written work
 which is successfully revised
 when it accomplishes all they
 set out to accomplish

## Passive Voice to Active Voice, Avoiding Unnecessary Verbs

#### Before

They can create a written work
 which is successfully revised
 when it accomplishes all they
 set out to accomplish

#### **After**

• A successfully revised work
accomplishes all they set out to
accomplish

## Passive Voice to Active Voice, Avoiding Unnecessary Verbs

#### **Before**

They can create a written work
 which is successfully revised
 when it accomplishes all they
 set out to accomplish,

#### **After**

A successfully revised work
 accomplishes all they set out to
 accomplish

## Avoiding Unclear Pronouns

#### Before

A successfully revised work
 accomplishes all they set out to
 accomplish

#### After

A successfully revised work
 accomplishes all the writer set
 out to accomplish

## **Avoiding Colloquialisms**

#### Before

A successfully revised work
 accomplishes all the writer set
 out to accomplish

#### After

 A successfully revised work accomplishes all the writer intended to accomplish

### Avoiding Repetitive Word Use

#### Before

A successfully revised work
 accomplishes all the writer
 intended to accomplish

#### After

A successfully revised work
 accomplishes all the writer
 intended to achieve

# Editing: Breaking the Sentence Down to Parts

#### Before

They can create a written work
 which is successfully revised
 when it accomplishes all they
 set out to accomplish

#### **After**

• A successfully revised work accomplishes all the writer intended to achieve

# Editing: Breaking the Sentence Down to Parts

#### **Before**

• They can create a written work which is successfully revised when it accomplishes all they set out to accomplish, includes no words that are unimportant or take away something from your purpose and allows the writer to clearly make their meaning known.

#### **After**

• A successfully revised work accomplishes all the writer intended to achieve, includes no words that are unimportant or take away something from your purpose and allows the writer to clearly make their meaning known.

## **Avoiding Redundancy**

**Before** After

includes no words that are

unimportant or take away

something from your purpose

## **Avoiding Redundancy**

#### **Before**

 includes no words that are unimportant or take away
 something from your purpose

#### **After**

• includes no words that are unimportant

# Editing: Breaking the Sentence Down to Parts

#### Before

• They can create a written work which is successfully revised when it accomplishes all they set out to accomplish, includes no words that are unimportant or take away something from your purpose and allows the writer to clearly make their meaning known.

#### After

• A successfully revised work
accomplishes all the writer
intended to achieve, includes
no words that are unimportant
and allows the writer to clearly
make their meaning known.

## Simplifying Language

#### **Before**

allows the writer to clearly
 make their meaning known.

#### **After**

• allows the writers meaning to be clear.

## Simplifying Language

#### **Before**

allows the writer to clearly
 make their meaning known.

#### **After**

• allows the writers meaning to be clear.

# Editing: Breaking the Sentence Down to Parts

#### Before

• They can create a written work which is successfully revised when it accomplishes all they set out to accomplish, includes no words that are unimportant or take away something from your purpose and allows the writer to clearly make their meaning known.

#### **After**

• A successfully revised work accomplishes all the writer intended to achieve, includes no words that are unimportant and allows the writers meaning to be clear.

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### Avoiding Repetitive Word Use

#### Before

• A successfully revised work accomplishes all the writer intended to achieve, includes no words that are unimportant and allows the writers meaning to be clear.

#### **After**

• A successfully revised work accomplishes all the author intended to achieve, includes no words that are unimportant and allows their meaning to be clear.

## Putting the Sentence Back Together

#### Before

• They can create a written work which is successfully revised when it accomplishes all they set out to accomplish, includes no words that are unimportant or take away something from your purpose and allows the writer to clearly make their meaning known.

#### **After**

• A successfully revised work accomplishes all the writer intended to achieve, includes no words that are unimportant and allows their meaning to be clear.

## Putting the Sentence Back Together

#### **Before**

• They can create a written work which is successfully revised when it accomplishes all they set out to accomplish, includes no words that are unimportant or take away something from your purpose and allows the writer to clearly make their meaning known.

#### **After**

• A successfully revised work accomplishes all the writer intended to achieve, includes no words that are unimportant and allows their meaning to be clear.

#### WHEN YOUR REVISION



**FINALLY STARTS TO MAKE SENSE** 



• By considering the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP), a skillful writer can craft an effective written work. A successfully revised work accomplishes all the writer intended to achieve, includes no words that are unimportant and allows their meaning to be clear. Once the first draft is complete it is time to begin the process of REP, which can be used to refer to the first step as well as the entire process. Revision is a very important process that cleans up and refines the rough draft into something worth being proud of.

## Editing: Clarity, Impact, Readability

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### **Ensuring Clarity of Clauses**

#### Before

Once the first draft is complete
it is time to begin the process
of REP, which can be used to
refer to the first step as well as
the entire process.

#### **After**

• Once the first draft is complete it is time to begin the process of revising, which can be used to refer to the first step as well as the entire process.

### **Ensuring Clarity of Clauses**

**Before** After

Once the first draft is complete
it is time to begin the process
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### **Ensuring Clarity of Clauses**

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#### **After**

• Once the first draft is complete it is time to begin the process of revising, a word which can be used to refer to the first step as well as the entire process.

### Avoiding Repetitive Word Choice

#### Before

Once the first draft is complete
it is time to begin the process
of revising, which can be used
to refer to the first step as well
as the entire process.

#### **After**

• Once the first draft is complete it is time to begin the procedure of revising, a word which can be used to refer to the first step as well as the entire process.

### Editing: Clarity, Impact, Readability

• By considering the three step process of revision, editing and proofreading (REP), a skillful writer can craft an effective written work. A successfully revised work accomplishes all the author intended to achieve, includes no words that are unimportant and allows their meaning to be clear. Once the first draft is complete it is time to begin the procedure of revising, a word which can be used to refer to the first step as well as the entire process. Revision is a very important process that cleans up and refines the rough draft into something worth being proud of.

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# Replacing Weak Phrases with Powerful Words

#### **Before**

Revision is a very important
 process that cleans up and
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 something worth being proud
 of.

#### **After**

 Revision is a vital process that cleans up and refines the rough draft into something worth being proud of.

# Replacing Weak Phrases with Powerful Words

#### Before

 Revision is a vital process that cleans up and refines the rough draft into something worth being proud of.

#### **After**

 Revision is a vital process that cleans up and refines the rough draft into a product worth being proud of.

# **Avoiding Redundancy**

**Before** After

Revision is a very important
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 refines the rough draft into a
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### **Avoiding Redundancy**

#### **Before**

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 process that cleans up and
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 product worth being proud of.

#### After

 Revision is a vital process that refines the rough draft into a product worth being proud of.

#### (Not an Error, but... Avoiding Ending a Sentence With a Preposition)

#### Before

 Revision is a vital process that cleans up and refines the rough draft into a product worth being proud of.

#### **After**

 Revision is a vital process that cleans up and refines the rough draft into a product of which to be proud.

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### **Avoiding Redundancy**

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# Proofreading

Punctuation

Subject-Verb Agreement (Number and Tense)

Other grammatical and formatting concerns

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Comma needed when listing three or more items (APA)

# Proofreading: Style-Specific

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Comma needed when listing three or more items (APA) No comma needed when listing three or more items (AP)

• By considering the three step process of revision, editing, and proofreading (REP), a skillful writer can craft an effective written work. A successfully revised work accomplishes all the author intended to achieve, includes no words that are unimportant and allows their meaning to be clear. Once the first draft is complete it is time to begin the procedure of revising, a word which can be used to refer to the first step as well as the entire process. Revision is a vital tool that refines the rough draft into a product of which to be proud.

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# Proofreading: Punctuation based on structure

- Compound Predicate No comma required
  - A successfully revised work accomplishes all the author intended to achieve and allows their meaning to be clear.
- Two Complete Sentences Comma required
  - A successfully revised work accomplishes all the author intended to achieve, and this work allows their meaning to be clear.
- Listing three or more items Comma required
  - A successfully revised work accomplishes (1) all the author intended to achieve, (2) includes no words that are unimportant, and (3) allows their meaning to be clear.

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A introductory clause requires a comma.

## Proofreading: Clauses

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## Revision, Editing, and Proofreading

#### **Before**

A piece of written work can be created by a very good writer to be effective by keeping in mind the three step process of REP. They can create a written work which is successfully revised when it accomplishes all they set out to accomplish, includes no words that are unimportant or take away something from your purpose and allows the writer to clearly make their meaning known. As a first step, making sure to structure the work with an outline before writing it means that you will have a framework to include details that support your central thesis. Once the first draft is complete it is time to begin the process of REP. The title also needs to fit with the content of the written work. Revision is a very important process that cleans up and refines the rough draft into something worth being proud of. The word revision can be used to refer to the first step as well as the entire process.

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#### Resources

#### • Writing Resources

- OWL at Purdue.edu Quick and Reliable Style Guide
- Writing Tips and Tools University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Extensive List of Handouts with Practical Advice
- <a href="https://www.grammarly.com/blog/category/handbook/">https://www.grammarly.com/blog/category/handbook/</a>
- Official APA Style FAQ
- Basic English Grammar Guide Intended for ESL

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#### THE WRITING CENTER • University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

APPOINTMENTS

SUBMIT A DRAFT

TIPS & TOOLS BLOG

FNGLISH LANGUAGE ▼ FACULTY AND GRADS ▼ ABOUT ▼

DONATE Q

#### Tips & Tools









#### Writing the Paper

- > Argument
- > Audience
- > Brainstorming
- > College Writing
- > Color Coding Video
- > Conclusions
- > <u>Drawing Relationships Video</u> ■
- > Evaluating Print Sources
- > Evidence
- > Fallacies
- > Figures and Charts
- > Flow
- > Getting Feedback
- > Introductions
- > Outlines Video ■
- > Paragraph Development
- > Procrastination
- > Reading Aloud
- ➤ Reading Aloud Video ■
- > Reorganizing Drafts
- > Reverse Outlining Video
- > Revising Drafts
- > Statistics
- Summary
- > Thesis Statements
- > Transitions
- > Understanding Assignments
- > Understanding Assignments Video
- ➤ Webbing Video
- > Writing Anxiety
- > Writing as Decision-Making
- Video
- > Writing Groups

#### Citation, Style, and Sentence Level Concerns

- > Articles
- > Citation Resources
- > Clichés
- > Commas
- > Conciseness
- > Conciseness Video
- > Conditionals
- > Editing and Proofreading
- > Fragments and Run-ons
- > Gender-Inclusive Language
- > How We Cite Video ■
- > Latin Terms and Abbreviations
- > Modal Verbs
- > Passive Voice
- > Passive Voice Video
- > Plagiarism
- > Proofreading Video
- > Quotations
- > Qualifiers
- > Relative Clauses
- > Semi-Colons, Colons, and Dashes
- > Should I Use "I"?
- > Sentence Patterns
- > Style
- > Transitions (ESL)
- > Verb Tenses
- > Why We Cite Video
- > Word Choice

#### **Specific Writing** Assignments or Contexts

> Abstracts

> Blogs

> Book Reviews

> Academic Cover Letters

> Comparing/Contrasting

> CVs and Resumes

> Conference Papers

> Diversity Statements

> Email Communication

> Journal Article Publication

> Letters of Recommendation

> Scientific Research Reports

> Working With Your International

Dissertations

> Essay Exams

> Film Analysis

> Group Writing

Letters

> Oral History

> Policy Briefs

> Speeches

> Syllabi

> Honors Theses

> Literature Reviews

> Poetry Explications

> Teaching Statements

> Grant Proposals

> Comparing/Contrasting Video

- > Annotated Bibliographies
- > Application Essays
- > Literature (Fiction)
  - > Music

Writing for

> Anthropology

> Art History

> Business

> Drama

> History

Specific Fields

> Communication Studies

- > Philosophy
- > Political Science
- > Psychology
- > Religious Studies
- > Sciences
- > Sociology



#### Additional Resources

- > Learning Center Tips & Tools
- > Fall 2021 Semester-At-A-Glance Calendar (Word) (PDF)
- > English as a Second Language (ESL) guides
- > Library Resources
- > CarolinaGo (Android) (iOS)