

UCSC MA/Credential Application Essay Writing Workshop

Editing vs. Revision

Editing	Revision
<p>Is on a sentence level, addressing problems with spelling, grammar, punctuation, or word choice.</p> <p>Is one-sided. The editor writes comments and corrections on the paper and returns the paper to the writer.</p> <p>Is hierarchical. An editor looks for "mistakes" and "fixes" them. An editor places value on writing (such as a grade). focuses on the paper as a product.</p>	<p>Deals with the paper as a whole, considering strengths and weaknesses, arguments, focus and organization, support, and voice, as well as mechanical issues.</p> <p>Is dialogue-based. The purpose of revision is to ask questions, expanding ideas and challenging arguments which require discussion between the writer and the reader.</p> <p>Is non-hierarchical. Offering questions and making observations allow the writer and reader to hold separate and valid opinions. The purpose of discussion is to expand and clarify ideas rather than "correct" them.</p> <p>Focuses on the writer in the process of writing and increasing the writer's understanding of the paper's strengths and weaknesses.</p> <p>Clarifies and focuses the writer's arguments by defining terms, making concessions and counter-arguments, and using evidence. This may involve moving or removing entire paragraphs, extending or narrowing ideas, rewriting vague or confusing text, and adding to existing paragraphs.</p>

Adapted from: <http://slc.berkeley.edu/editing-vs-revision>

UCSC MA/C Application Essays:

Statement of Purpose

Your preparation and qualifications

Why you want the MA/credential -- how it will help you meet your goals

Personal History

Experiences, challenges, opportunities that affected your academic journey

How you will contribute to diversity in the teaching field (or to supporting diversity?)

How you might serve underrepresented students with your degree

There's the potential for a lot of overlap, so you will want to pick and choose what goes where to have the most impact without repeating content.

Together, these essays should show

- 1. How you are prepared to be successful in their program**
 - Talk like an educator using formal academic language to describe your experience (when appropriate)
- 2. How you are a good fit for them (how your goals and theirs intersect)?**
 - Interest in advancing equity in society? What populations are you interested in serving/working with?
- 3. How will they help you meet your goals?**
 - What will you learn that you don't already know?

Agenda:

1. Community ground rules
2. Partner up
3. Read partner's work
4. Discussion w/partner
5. Strategize your next steps
6. Discussion as group

Helpful editing guidelines for after you revise:

- Vary sentences and sentence beginnings.
- Avoid Passive voice -- replace "to be" verbs with direct action verbs
- Check word choice
- Stay consistent with tense. Default to writing in the present tense, while only switching to past tense for anecdotes or future tense when describing future plans and goals.