

# APPROACHES TO REVISING A DRAFT ANALYTICAL ESSAYS

No. 4 in the Writing Center Handout Series

*You just finished your first draft, but before you turn it in you should do one more thing: revise. Here are some suggestions to help you do it.*

## Take a break

Before attempting to revise your essay, take a break. Thinking about something else will give your mind a rest so you can return to the essay refreshed.

## Stage One: The Big Picture

- The first stage of revising should focus on the big picture—addressing the content and organization of your *draft* as a whole. Here are some suggestions for approaching this stage:
  - Look at the **CONTENT** of your draft. Check to be sure that...
    - ✓ Your thesis is significant. A significant thesis should introduce a new idea to the reader.
    - ✓ Your thesis is arguable. Could someone feasibly argue the other side of your thesis?