

NOT SO Formulaic

EFFECTIVE REVISION CHECKLIST

EFFECTIVE REVISION
IS MORE THAN
FINDING GRAMMAR
AND SPELLING
MISTAKES. THESE
QUESTIONS WILL
EVALUATE

Content
Diction
Organization
Voice

CONTENT

- Nonfiction
- How have you expressed your purpose?
- How have you proved your argument?
- How can you refute counter arguments?
- Are you using reader-based prose?
- Fiction
- Do you invite the reader into your narrative?
- What theme or message have you crafted for your reader?
- Are you using reader-based prose?

DICTION

- Nonfiction:
 - How does your word choice fit your audience?
 - Is there jargon? Is it necessary?
 - Is there a balance between simple and complex language?
 - Is your language accessible?
- Fiction
 - Can you expand important scenes or condense lesser ones?
 - Does your language build characters?
 - Are you showing as well as telling?

ORGANIZATION

- Nonfiction
 - What type of organizational pattern are you using?
 - Should you blend patterns? Why or why not?
 - How does your organizational pattern develop your idea or argument?
- Fiction
 - How do your narrative techniques complement or detract from your plot line?
 - How are you leading your reader to subtleties in characterization? Theme? Conflict? Symbolism?

VOICE

- Nonfiction
 - How do you reveal your attitude toward your topic?
 - Does your voice sway the reader? Distract? Encourage? Entertain?
 - Does your language engage the reader or thrill him?
- Fiction
 - How can you communicate your tone to your reader? Through diction? Setting? Conflict? Characterization?
 - Does your language engage the reader or thrill him?