

Reviewing an MLA research paper: Global revisions

FOCUS

- Is the thesis stated clearly enough? Is it placed where readers will notice it?
- Does each paragraph support the thesis?

ORGANIZATION

- Can readers follow the organization? Would headings help?
- Do topic sentences signal new ideas? Do transitions help readers move from one major group of paragraphs to another?
- Are ideas presented in a logical order?

CONTENT

- Is the supporting material persuasive? Are the arguments strong enough to stand up to arguments of those who disagree with the thesis?
- Are the parts proportioned sensibly? Do the major ideas receive enough attention?
- Is the draft concise—free of irrelevant, unimportant, or repetitious material?

STYLE

- Is the voice appropriate—not too chatty, too stuffy, or too timid?
- Are the sentences clear, emphatic, and varied?