Revision Strategies:
Use THE FORCE!

- **TAKE A BREATH:** Wait awhile after you’ve finished a draft before looking at it again. A day—a few hours even—will work. When you do return to the draft, be honest with yourself, and don’t be lazy. Ask yourself what you really think about the paper.

- **HOLD YOUR FOCUS:** Check to make sure your written response is appropriately focused on the assignment. Is the topic too big or too narrow? Do you stay on track throughout the entire paper?

- **ENVISION THE BALANCE:** Make sure each part of your response is proportionate with others. Do you spend too much time on one trivial point and neglect a more important point? Do you give lots of detail early on and then let your points get thinner by the end?

- **FOLLOW UP ON YOUR THESIS:** Reread your thesis to make sure you still agree with it. Should it be modified in light of something you discovered as you wrote the paper? Does it make a sophisticated, provocative point, or does it just say what anyone could say if given the same topic?

- **ORGANIZE:** Make sure your paper follows a pattern that makes sense. Do the transitions move your readers smoothly from one point to the next? Do the topic sentences of each paragraph appropriately introduce what that paragraph is about? Would your paper work better if you moved some things around?

- **REVISIT PROMISES:** Check to see if your paper does everything you said it would. Do you support all the claims in your thesis? Do you answer the entire prompt?

- **CHECK FOR ACCURACY:** Make sure your facts are accurate. Are any of your statements misleading? Have you provided enough detail to satisfy readers’ curiosity? Have you cited all your information appropriately?

- **END WITH A BANG:** Make your last paragraph a good one. Do your final statements tie the paper together smoothly and end on a stimulating note, or does the paper just die a slow, redundant, or abrupt death?