

Some examples of editing/revising

As you are working on the final draft of your essay, here are some things we discussed in class, as well as specific examples revised paragraphs.

To support your thesis in your body paragraphs::

1. Explain the context of the quote you are going to use. What was going on? If it's part of a dialogue, who was saying it? Why? You need a brief narrative.
2. Insert the quote
3. Explain how the quote relates to the theme

Hold off on your opinion until the concluding paragraph. Keep the tone formal and analyze how the author is supporting the theme only;

- Keep the tone formal and impersonal.
- Don't use "I", "we", "you"
- Avoid unnecessary repetition
- Don't announce what you are going to write. Just write it.
- Avoid formulaic expressions such as "this examples shows that..."
- Use present tense when narrating the plot of the novel.

First draft of body paragraph:

In the novella, *Heart of Darkness*, by Joseph Conrad, a sailor named Marlow travels to the Congo to participate in the Ivory trade, eventually becoming obsessed with finding an allegedly brilliant Mr. Kurtz because of all the rumors surrounding his name, and unintentionally uncovering the truth behind the facade. This story exposes humans' tendency to commit atrocities under the guise of good deeds, and the immense darkness in people's hearts.

Final draft of body paragraph:

In the novella, *Heart of Darkness*, by Joseph Conrad, a sailor named Marlow travels to the Congo to participate in the Ivory trade during the late 1800's. He becomes obsessed with finding a mysterious trader, Mr. Kurtz, who lost himself deep into the Congo. He is allegedly brilliant, and there are many rumors surrounding his name. At the end, Marlow unintentionally uncovers the truth behind the facade. This story exposes humans'

tendency to commit atrocities under the guise of good deeds, and the immense darkness in people's hearts.

First draft of body paragraph:

"The conquest of the earth, which mostly means the taking it away from those who have a different complexion or slightly flatter noses than ourselves, is not a pretty thing when you look into it too much," (HOD PART 1). This quote points out the absurdity behind the idea of colonialism, which is entirely racist. The white men assumed they were superior people simply because of their technological advancements and felt the need to enlighten the less advanced black people who were deemed "savages" because of this. Who really is being savage, here?

Final draft of body paragraph:

At the beginning of the story, an unknown narrator introduces Marlow, who sits in the Thames River in England, and reminisces about his experiences in the Congo. Marlow then becomes the second narrator, and most of the story unfolds through his eyes in first person point of view. "The conquest of the earth, which mostly means the taking it away from those who have a different complexion or slightly flatter noses than ourselves, is not a pretty thing when you look into it too much," with this, Marlow opens his narrative. His words point out the absurdity behind the idea of imperialism, which is entirely racist. The white men assumed they were superior people simply because of their technological advancements and felt the need to enlighten the less advanced black people who were deemed "savages" because of this.