

BA-Eindwerkstuk Seminar

Week 11: Revision, Peer Review, and Acting on Feedback

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Opening

Today's Agenda

1. Where we are: from Assignment #3 to the Final Manuscript
2. Revision principles: re-seeing the argument
3. Peer review activity: read and discuss a peer's empirical section
4. The path to June 1

You submitted a 5,000-word empirical draft this week. Supervisor feedback comes in about a week; the Final Manuscript is due three weeks after that.

Where We Are

Milestone	Date	Status
Boot camp (Weeks 1–4)	Feb. 06 – Feb. 27	Complete
Assignment #1: Revised Proposal	Mar. 13	Complete
Assignment #2: Preliminary Draft	Apr. 03	Complete
Peer review (Week 7)	Apr. 10	Complete
Ethics & Protocol (Week 8)	Apr. 17	Complete
Assignment #3: Empirical Draft	May 06	Submitted
You are here	May 08	—
Written feedback on A#3	within ~1 week	Coming
Final Manuscript	Jun. 01	In 24 days

The remaining 24 days are for integrating, revising, and communicating the research you have already done.

Revision Principles

Revision is Not Editing

Most students conflate these. They are different operations, and the order matters.

	Revision (global)	Editing (local)
Scope	Argument, structure, integration	Sentence, paragraph, citation
Question	<i>Does the thesis hold together?</i>	<i>Is this prose clear?</i>
Output	Sections moved, rewritten, cut	Cleaner sentences
When	First	Last

Polishing a paragraph you may end up cutting is wasted effort. A weak link from evidence to claim is an argument problem dressed as a transition problem. Diagnose at the right level.

Reverse Outlining

A reverse outline shows you what your draft *actually does*, rather than what you intended.

The method:

1. For each paragraph, write a single sentence describing what it *does* (e.g., “introduces the second case,” “extends a counter-argument,” “summarizes the source”).
2. Read those sentences as a list, in order. The structural problems will jump out.

What to look for:

- Two paragraphs doing the same thing → redundancy
- A claim with no paragraph supporting it → gap
- Out-of-order moves → restructure
- Paragraphs you cannot describe in one sentence → cut or rewrite

Try this: take your introduction or empirical chapter, reverse-outline it (twenty minutes), then ask whether this is the argument you think you are making.

Revising Against the Four Assessment Criteria

Your thesis is assessed on four criteria from the Protocol. Use them as a revision checklist.

Criterion	Revision question
Knowledge and insight	Does the introduction frame a real, motivated question? Does the literature review show command of the field?
Application of knowledge	Are methods justified? Is the empirical analysis well-executed and tied to the framework?
Reaching conclusions	Does the discussion go beyond restating findings? Are limitations honest?
Communication	Is the structure clear? Are citations correct? Does the prose serve the argument?

Most BA theses lose marks on **integration** (the empirical chapter does not answer the introduction's question) and on **conclusions** (the discussion just summarizes). Both are revision problems.

Peer Review and Feedback

Peer Review: How This Will Work

Format: pairs (trios if odd number). **Total time:** ~35 minutes.

Open the shared folder and read your partner's empirical section from their most recent assignment. Five to eight pages is enough.

Phase	Time	What happens
Setup	5 min	I introduce the prompts; you pair up and open the section
Silent reading	10 min	You read your partner's section, annotating against three prompts
Discussion (round 1)	5 min	Reader A talks; Writer A listens and takes notes
Discussion (round 2)	5 min	Switch
Whole-class debrief	10 min	Share useful feedback; discuss as a group

The rule

The writer **listens without defending**. Take notes. Do not explain, do not push back, do not clarify. This is the same discipline you will need for written feedback from your supervisor.

Three Reading Prompts

Annotate your partner's section against these three prompts. Write on the page or in a separate note.

- 1. Argument trace.** In one sentence: what is the central claim of this section? Mark the sentence(s) where the claim appears, and the sentence(s) where the evidence supports it.
- 2. Integration check.** Scan the introduction. Does this section visibly connect to the research question and the analytical framework laid out there? Where does the connection feel weak, missing, or assumed?
- 3. One thing to keep, one thing to change.**
 - Name a specific paragraph that works. Why?
 - Name one specific *structural* change you would suggest, not a prose tweak (e.g., “move this section before the literature review,” “cut the second case,” “add a bridge paragraph between findings and discussion”).

Structural feedback is more useful than prose feedback at this stage. Save line-editing for later.

Peer Review: Steps

1. Silent reading (10 min)
2. Discussion round 1 (5 min): Reader A speaks
3. Discussion round 2 (5 min): Switch

The writer listens without defending.

10 minutes. Share useful feedback and discuss as a group.

- One useful piece of feedback you received
- A structural change you are now considering
- A question that came up during the activity

Closing

The Path to June 1

Date	What happens
Within ~1 week	Written feedback on Assignment #3
Days 1–2 after feedback	Read once. 24-hour pause. Read again with the working method.
Week 1	Address Tier 1 (structure / argument)
Week 2	Address Tier 2 (evidence / citations); finish integration
Week 3	Address Tier 3 (prose / style); proofread; format
Jun. 01	Final Manuscript due

Reach out to your supervisor between now and June 1 with anything you cannot resolve from the feedback alone. Office hours and meetings are still on.

Key Takeaways

1. **Revision is not editing.** Re-see the argument first. Polish prose last.
2. **Reverse-outline at least one section** before the feedback arrives. You will find something.
3. **Confusion is data.** When a reader misreads, fix the writing.

[Course website](#) | [Thesis Protocol](#) | [Style Guide](#) | [Assignment #3 Rubric](#)

Good luck with the final stretch. *See you on the other side of June 1.*