

Writing Assignment #4:
A revision of Assignment #1 (the critical analysis essay)
or Assignment #2 (the argumentative essay)
4-5 pages

For your final writing assignment, you will revise one of the essays you wrote earlier this semester. We are not necessarily looking for a longer paper. Rather, we are looking for a paper that reflects an improvement in the overall quality of presentation and a greater understanding of the linguistic topic or question you wrote about in the first version.

You should begin your work on this paper by critically re-examining the ideas, claims, and arguments you presented in the previous version. In light of your greater knowledge of linguistics, you are likely to discover that your thinking about the topic has changed in some way and that you need to modify your arguments to reflect changes in your perspective. Alternatively, you may want to expand on some aspects of the topic or develop additional arguments to strengthen your original ideas or claims. You should also address any areas of weakness that were pointed out in the writing instructor's comments. For example, you may need to sharpen the focus and organization of the paper, make more effective use of evidence from the source material to support your claims, or improve the clarity and fluency of your prose. Revising also means editing the paper to eliminate grammatical, spelling, and punctuation errors.

A good first step would be to read through your earlier paper, noting any key claims or arguments that you want to modify or expand on. You may also find it useful to re-read the source material provided for the assignment. Review the comments you received on the first version, to see the patterns of strengths and weaknesses. Begin with the more substantive revisions — especially those involving focus, additional development, or organization. Then turn to phrasing and mechanics.

As before, the essay should have a title and be double-spaced. It should also include a bibliography of the source material you used.

Important: You should attach a one-paragraph summary that highlights the changes you made in revising the essay.

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

24.900 Introduction to Linguistics
Fall 2012

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.