

Juxta Commons Revision/Collation Assignment

By now, you have all revised your first essay and received comments from me on your revision. This assignment will ask you to work with just a small piece of this paper once more. The focus here is meant to be on editing itself at the level of the paragraph and of the sentence. You will be graded based on the two reflections you write about the process as well as on your participation during group discussion.

1) Take one paragraph from your essay that you think changed a lot through the revision process and revise it again, being sure to save each distinct draft. Upload all three versions of the paragraph to [Juxta Commons](#), an online tool that allows you to collate and compare the differences among versions of the same text. Following the directions on the [Juxta Commons user guide](#), collate the three versions of your paragraph and examine the differences among them using Juxta's visualization tool. Finally, be sure to upload the URL to your comparison sets to our course website, again following the instructions in the [Juxta Commons guide](#). Do so by **5:00 PM Sunday, February 13th**.

2) In class on **Monday, February 14th** we will spend a portion of the meeting discussing the collations in groups. I will break you into groups of four ahead of time, and you are responsible for thoroughly examining the collations submitted by your group members before class. In class, be sure to spend time discussing each person's collation in the group, no more than ten minutes each. Use the following questions to guide your discussion (you will not discuss all of them):

- What remains constant from draft to draft?
- Where do changes cluster? In the beginning of the paragraph? The middle? The end? Why?
- Do these edits indicate any special anxiety or concern with any one particular element of the writing process – transitional sentences, thematic content, logic, etc.?
- Do the ideas themselves stay the same?
- What does the activity reveal that you might not otherwise have noticed?
- What is the most meaningful single change that was made? Was there a single word that changed everything?
- If you had to describe the overall changes made to the paragraph in less than five words, how would you do so?
- Can you identify the intention behind a particular edit? Can you offer a better option that wasn't chosen?
- Do the visualizations each reveal particular things? Why or why not?

3) By **Friday, February 15th** electronically submit to me two brief (250 word) reflections on the activity, one based on your own collation and another based on a collation uploaded by one of your group members. You might consider taking up any of the above questions in your short essays. As response posts, these need not be thoroughly polished documents. I am looking for thoughtful reflection on the revision process above all else.