

Checklist for revision:

When revising writing, our goal isn't just to "fix" errors, but to find as many opportunities as possible to strengthen the work—make it more developed, engaging, etc. Watch for opportunities for continued improvement in these areas:

- 1) Development, Clarity, Focus
 - a. Does the piece feel fully-formed? Is it at an appropriate level of complexity?
 - b. Are there moments that feel scattered or not necessary to the piece?
 - c. Does the piece make an appropriate amount of "sense"? While creative work might not always ascribe to logical sense, are there moments that are needlessly confusing in a way that distracts the reader instead of engages them?
- 2) Specificity, Particularity
 - a. Are there moments that are too general, or what Louise Gluck calls "stock footage"?
 - b. Does the piece feel like anyone could have written it, or is there something particularly engaging from the speaker's vantage-point that draws a reader in?
- 3) Stakes, Purpose
 - a. What's at stake in the poem? Are these stakes clear?
 - b. Is the "why?" of the poem present/developed?
 - c. Why should/might a reader be invested in the work?
- 4) Structure
 - a. Does the sequencing serve the progression of the piece?
 - b. Is the form of the piece appropriate for the content?
 - c. If in lines/stanzas, are there opportunities to re-work these toward new effects?
- 5) Change Over Time
 - a. Are there moments, ideas, phrases, etc. left over from earlier versions that no longer serve the direction of the piece?
 - b. If the piece was from an exercise, are there structures from the prompt that are no longer needed?
- 6) Title
 - a. How does the title frame the piece?
 - b. (Is there a title?)

For examples of revisions, visit <https://www.underbellymag.com/>. In their spotlight and archive sections, you can find early versions and final versions of published works, alongside commentary from the poets about the process.