CDO Revising Strategy (Compare, Diagnose, Operate)

This revising strategy involves revising a paper sentence by sentence, starting with the first sentence and proceeding to the last. After reading a sentence (Step 1) the student selects an evaluation card that best describes it (Step 2). Two of the cards focus on clarity, one asks writers to consider the sentence in relation to overall purpose; two others ask for analysis for confusion; one for mismatches between intent and outcome; and two others prompt for evaluation of the readers’ reactions. Finally, the last card indicates that the sentence is good as is.

Each statement should be printed on a white card with a green border to remind student to start with these cards. The words Evaluate each sentence should also be printed at the top of each card to remind students that they are assessing each sentence. Whenever an evaluation card other than This is good is selected, students first think about how to correct the problem, then choose one of five tactic cards (Step 3). Finally, they carry out the intended revision (Step 4). Each revising tactic (Step 3) should be typed on a white card with a red border to signal that this is the final step in making a revision.

Teacher should use the SRSD method to teach the strategy.

Source: La Paz, Swanson, & Graham, 1998

Step 1. Compare: Read the sentence.

Step 2. Select the best evaluation cards.

This doesn’t sound right.
This is not what I intended to say.
This is not useful to my paper/story.
This is good.
People may not understand this part.
People won’t be interested in this part.
People won’t believe this part.

Step 3. Operate: Select a tactic card.

Rewrite.
Add more.
Leave this part out.
Change the wording.

Step 4. Operate: Make your revision.
Evaluate each sentence
This doesn’t sound right.

Evaluate each sentence
This is not what I meant to say.

Evaluate each sentence
This is not useful to my paper.

Evaluate each sentence
This is good.

Evaluate each sentence
People may not understand this part.

Evaluate each sentence
People won’t be interested in this part.

Evaluate each sentence
People won’t believe this part.

Rewrite.

Add more.

Leave this part out.

Change the wording.