Assignment 5: Prose Revision Presentation (Individual)
Oral Presentations Tuesday March 11 and Thursday March 13
Passage choices and short explanations due to me via e-mail by Tuesday March 4

In this exercise you will apply the concepts and techniques we have been working on all quarter to a chunk of your own writing--from this or another class, from your workplace, or from your application process--and transform it into a higher-quality, more-efficient piece of prose. You will present the before-and-after versions and guide us through your process in the form of a “chalk talk” oral presentation that is five minutes long, and is supported and enhanced by well-chosen visuals. At least one of these visuals must include an image with text boxes and arrows pointing effectively to well-chosen features you want to highlight.

Note that you can choose the sample you will work on, but you should choose well so that your analysis can show improvements in structure, efficiency, and style. You can take a piece that is more essayistic than it should be and make it more business-like, or that is amorphous and rambling and make it tighter and more directed. You can take a piece that earned an A in another class and show that it could still be better by the standards we are applying, or you can use this opportunity to work on a piece of writing that you have been procrastinating on or are dissatisfied with (e.g., a personal statement for graduate school). Your selection should be of manageable length--a couple of paragraphs will probably be plenty long, and effective presentations have been made on a single sentence--but you want to make sure your process goes beyond mere mistake correction and actually shows how you are applying the sentence-crafting and information-design skills we have been cultivating.

Your oral presentation will clearly and effectively cover the following (not necessarily in lock-step order):

- What your passage is, and how the document is supposed to work
- Why it needed revision and at what level(s)
- How you transformed it (down to the level of phrase-by-phrase / word-by-word decisions)
- What specific editing principles you applied
- Why the revision is better according to the standards and practices we have been discussing

The sooner you select a passage, the sooner you can meet with me to discuss how you will transform it. The absolute deadline for sending me your passage choice and your ideas for transformation is Tuesday March 4th, but if you get rolling earlier then we can have more chances to workshop your presentation.