

Revision Project

First Stop, Ellis Island! (original play)

You've previously rewritten a portion of someone else's story (Dahl's "The Landlady" or Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart"), although that rewrite was an attempt to experiment with point of view, and the experiment, as many of you wrote in your argumentative paragraphs, didn't always improve upon the original.

This time, you are going to revise an entire text with the intention of making it a stronger work all around. The text you will revise is the original play of "First Stop, Ellis Island!". The first thing you will do is to analyze what changes you want to make within the different scenes of the play, explaining your rationale for those changes. Then you'll actually make the revisions to the play, copying and pasting (and, unfortunately, reformatting) the original text and making all of the desired changes you listed in step 1. Third, you'll mark the sections that you've changed/revise by using highlighters (that are light enough in color to still make the text legible). Finally, you'll explain your final thoughts on the revision and how it's an improvement over the original.

There are a few rules to the revision process:

- 1) you CAN work with a partner if you'd like to do so (and I even encourage you to do so, to get other ideas and also to help make life easier).
- 2) You CANNOT add entirely new scenes with entirely new content; neither can you add entirely new storylines into existing scenes. However, you CAN change and eliminate existing dialogue, and to a lesser extent you can add some new dialogue to help better develop an existing idea within the play. (IMPORTANT: because the narrators are listed characters, that means that you are also allowed to modify their dialogue using the same rules/restrictions.)
- 3) You CAN eliminate characters that you believe to be unnecessary to the play.
- 4) You CAN move scenes around into a different order, but you CANNOT totally eliminate scenes.
- 5) You ARE expected to have at least some revision in each scene.

If you have any questions about the rules of revision, ask me. The goal is to keep the original text but to make it better, not to totally change it into something new, and that's the reason for the revision rules. If you have any ideas that you don't believe are covered/addressed in the revision rules, check with me to see if the proposed changes are in the "spirit" of the revision.

Finally, on the Google Doc provided, you will find headers for the various steps of the revision process. You'll notice that the Google Doc is already several pages long. Put your work in the appropriate places within the document.