Revision Strategies To Try:

✔ Read your essay aloud *slowly* and/or have someone read your writing aloud to you.

✔ Write a second draft without looking at the first.

✔ Start your revision as a new document; cut and paste from your old draft so that you can compare what it was to what it is becoming.

✔ Look at each paragraph and summarize its topic; if any sentences do not relate to the topic, consider creating a new paragraph or moving the information to a different paragraph.

✔ Make a hard return (hit enter) after every period in your writing to isolate each sentence. Read every sentence by itself to determine its relevancy, potency, and accuracy. Consider the known-new contract and determine if the sentences are relating to each other by looking at the sentences above and below.

✔ Pretend you’re the teacher. Comment in the margins. Write an end comment that summarizes what you’ve done well, what you could work on, and any questions you may have about the writing.

✔ Read your draft backward. Begin with the last sentence and continue until the first sentence.

✔ Choose a color for each main idea and highlight the sentences that relate to that idea. Have any supporting points strayed off into different areas in your paper?

✔ Print a copy of your paper and cut out each paragraph. Shuffle them and see if you (or better yet, someone else) can recreate your original order. This could show you where transitions are needed or if anything should be rearranged.