Using a Grammar Revision Journal
by the Walden Dissertation Editors

Self-awareness is key to revising for grammatical errors. Using a grammar revision journal is one way to gain awareness of patterns of grammatical errors and how to revise them to become a more independent writer and reviser.

Pro Tips

- Make a list of common errors based on feedback received from both faculty and the staff in the Writing Center.
- Be aware of the most common grammatical errors:
  - Sentence structure
  - Word choice
  - Verb tenses
  - Noun endings (singular vs. plural)
  - Verb forms
  - Punctuation
  - Articles
  - Word form
  - Spelling
  - Run-ons
  - Pronouns
  - Subject-verb agreement
  - Fragments
- Download the Grammar Revision Journal Template to adapt it as needed.
- Add these common errors to the grammar revision journal. This journal has a place to keep track of the type of error, examples of the error, revisions/corrections, and the rule.
### Example of Grammar Revision Journal

**Issue: Verb Tenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Example of Error</th>
<th>Revision/Correction</th>
<th>Rule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/10/18</td>
<td>In 2017, many researchers have studied how small business owners can be successful beyond the initial few years in business.</td>
<td>In 2017, many researchers <strong>studied</strong> how small business owners can be successful beyond the initial few years in business. Or Many researchers <strong>have studied</strong> how small business owners can be successful beyond the initial few years in business.</td>
<td>Use the simple past tense for completed actions that occurred at a specific time (in this case, 2017). Use the present perfect tense for actions in the past without a specific timeframe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/25/18</td>
<td>Bronfenbrenner (1993) claims that there are five environmental systems that directly affect individuals.</td>
<td>Bronfenbrenner (1993) <strong>claimed</strong> that there are five environmental systems that directly affect individuals.</td>
<td>According to APA 3.18, refer to the work of another researcher in the past.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Watch the [video on using a grammar revision journal](#) for more information. Also visit the [web page on Revising for Grammar](#) and the [webpages on grammar](#) for other ideas. Contact [editor@waldenu.edu](mailto:editor@waldenu.edu) with questions about preparing the proposal and final doctoral capstone document for submission.*