Writer Type Revision Checklist

Match Your Revision Process to Your Creative Style

This quick-reference checklist is designed to help you revise your draft in a way that fits *you*. Whether you're a planner, a discoverer, or somewhere in between—your revision process should feel aligned, not forced.

🛞 Plotter's Route – The Architect

You likely:

- Wrote from a detailed outline
- Knew your ending from the start
- Measured progress scene by scene

Revision Checklist:

- Compare your draft to your original outline
- Note where the draft diverged—and ask if the new version works better
- Check each act for pacing and turning points
- Tighten scenes that just "fill in gaps"
- Use a structure template to realign weak sections

A Wanderer's Way – The Intuitive Explorer

You likely:

- Wrote scene by scene without a full plan
- Followed emotional beats or character voice
- Let the story grow as you went

Revision Checklist:

- Read your draft without judgment—just feel the flow
- Highlight scenes that resonate and feel "true"
- Group scenes by emotion, action, or theme
- Reverse outline what you *actually wrote*
- Identify where meaning or structure needs support

You likely:

- Started with a loose plan, then followed instinct
- Switched between outlining and discovery
- Let the story evolve as new ideas emerged

Revision Checklist:

- Reflect on where you stuck to vs. drifted from your outline
- Create a new beat map from the finished draft
- Highlight scenes that feel disconnected
- Choose a focus for each revision pass (structure, character, theme)
- Strengthen transitions where tone or pacing shifts

Solution Mosaic Method – The Scene Sculptor

You likely:

- Wrote out of order
- Created strong scenes without immediate context
- Captured emotion or voice before structure

Revision Checklist:

- Lay out all scenes visually (digital or physical)
- Identify gaps, overlaps, or missing links
- Group scenes by function: plot, arc, emotion
- Build structure around strong moments
- Fill in transitions to unify tone and timeline

🔦 Sculptor's Trail – The Raw Draft Refiner

You likely:

- Wrote quickly with minimal planning
- Created a messy but complete draft
- Trust revision as your true creative process

Revision Checklist:

- Read through the entire draft without editing
- Take notes on structure, character, and pacing
- Re-outline the draft based on what's actually there
- Do one revision pass per focus area (big picture \rightarrow detail)
- Rewrite scenes that don't serve the central theme or arc

Final Tip: No Matter Your Type...

- Give yourself time between drafting and revising
- Be kind to your past writing self—it got you here
- Keep what works. Cut what doesn't. Rebuild what matters.

Revise your way. The plot abides.