

REVISION STRATEGIES THAT WORK

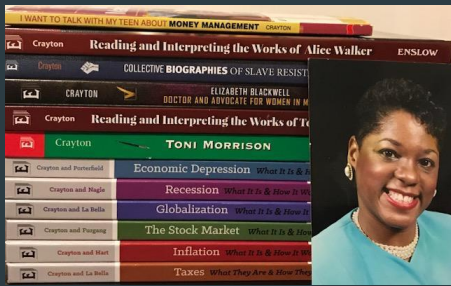
Presenter: Lisa A. Crayton

ABOUT ME

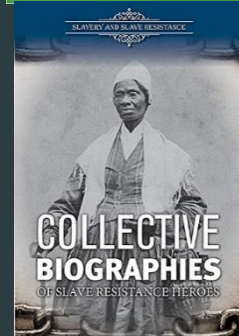
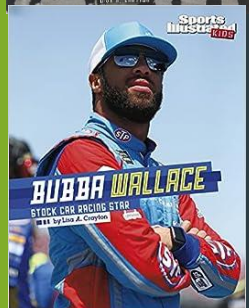
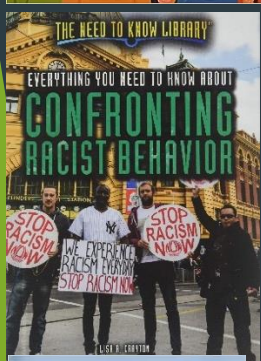
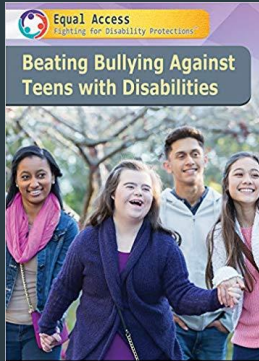
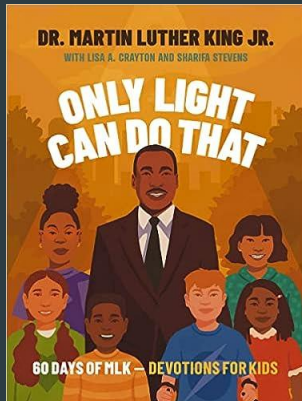
- Author & KidLit Author
- Editor
- Freelance Writer
- Collaborative Writer
- Ghostwriter
- Sensitivity Reader

DEVOTIONALS

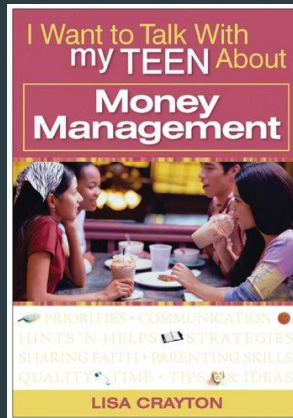
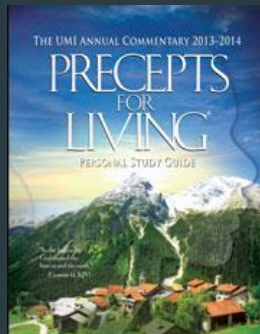
ARTICLES



18+ MG/YA BOOKS



BIBLE STUDY GUIDES



PARENTING BOOK

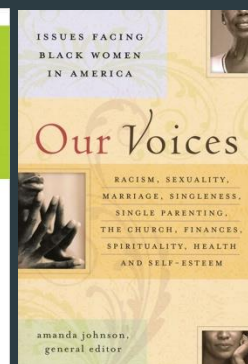
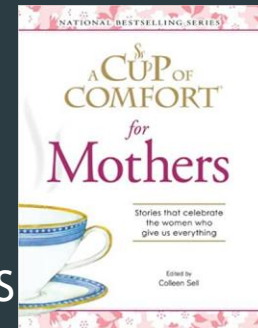
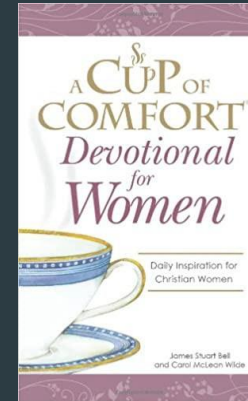
BOOK CHAPTERS

the household money organizer

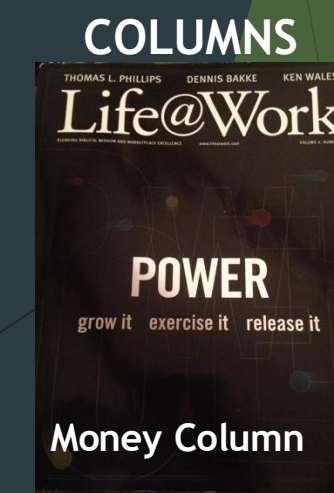
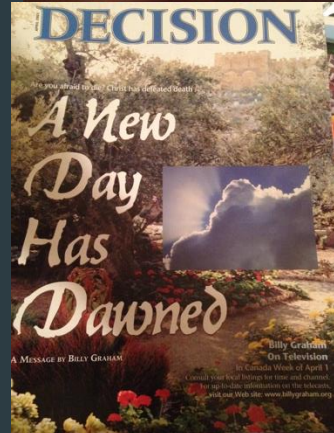
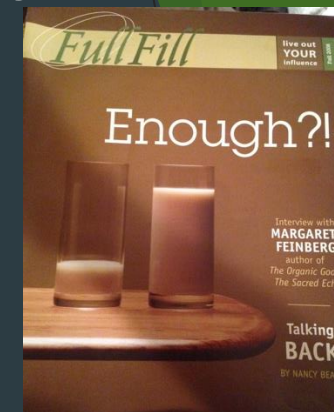
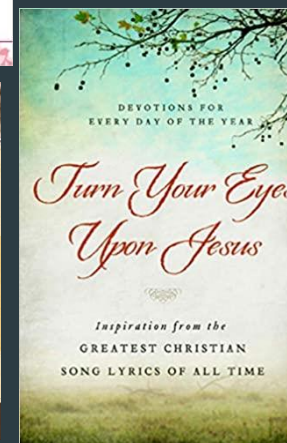
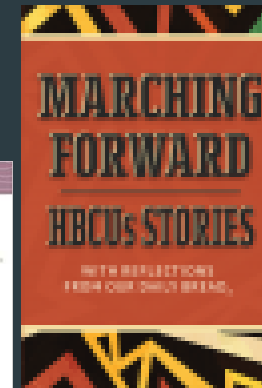
- ✓ See at a glance what you've paid
- ✓ Keep track of all your bills—even electronic payments
- ✓ Create a budget you can live with
- ✓ Learn 30 ways to save while you spend
- ✓ Take control of your finances



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BOOK REVIEWS (PERSONAL FINANCE)

WHY THIS TOPIC?

Revision is an essential tool in an editor's or writer's creative toolkit.

Revision is part of the final wash or dry cycle of print and online publishing.

Revision helps writing sing.

Even Bible writers revised their work!

I BELIEVE

Anyone can write.

**Writing and revision are
learned disciplines.**

**Writers and editors can
be better to themselves -
and others—during
revision.**

FRAMEWORK FOR REVISION

“Revision asks that we cast the small world we’ve created in words – and all it represents within our being – in entirely new light.”

--Elizabeth J. Andrew

Author, *Living Revision: A Writer’s Craft as Spiritual Practice*

MINDSETS THAT HINDER EFFECTIVE REVISION

I don't have time to revise.

Revision will steal my style, voice.

I can't cut anything else!

That's the editor's job.

Self-editing is too hard to master.

MYTHS ABOUT REVISION

2 TRUTHS & A LIE

- ❑ Revision is avoidable.
- ❑ Revision is hard.
- ❑ Revision makes writing better.

MYTHS ABOUT REVISION

(2 *truths* & a *lie*)

❑ Revision is *avoidable*.

- ✓ TRUTH: revision is an option and/but you and your readers will regret any decision *not to revise*

❑ Revision is hard.

- ✓ TRUTH: It can be cry-at-your-computer hard within a project or from project to project.

❑ Revision makes writing better.

- ✓ FALSE: “Better” is subjective and/or “better” can make a piece of writing worse.

POWER OF *PUBLISHED WORDS*

1. Vehicle of Communication
2. Reflect Light (Jesus)
3. Connect Mankind to God
4. Inform
5. Heal
6. Entertain
7. More!

POWER OF REVISION

Revision helps us maximize the power, and purpose of words.

THE GOAL FOR EFFECTIVE REVISION



*Promises made,
promises kept.*

EFFECTIVE REVISION: READER BENEFITS

Improved . . .

- Messaging (felt needs seen/heard)
- Readability
- Flow
- Structure (including length, transitions, etc.)
- Interest (reader action and buy-in)

EFFECTIVE REVISION: *WRITER/EDITOR BENEFITS*

Improved . . .

- Messaging (organization; church; publication)
- Skills (writing, editing)
- Empathy (for readers or writers)
- Creativity
- Confidence
- Prayer life

OUTCOMES OF EFFECTIVE REVISION

Improved . . .

- Messaging (organizational; church; faith element, etc.)
- Readability
- Flow
- Structure (including length, transitions, etc.)
- Interest (reader action and buy-in)
- Creativity
- Confidence (writer/editor benefit)

STRATEGIES THAT WORK

1. Clarity
2. Consistency/continuity
3. Community
4. Complexity
5. Creativity
6. Christianity

REVISION STRATEGY THAT WORKS...

1. CLARITY CHECK

Analyze ... *and revise accordingly.*

What in the world is this about?

Are arguments logical?

Do sentences/paragraphs/chapters connect to theme or promised focus?

What's missing?

Writer tips: don't be vague.

What does "it" refer to? Revise if you missed saying what you meant to say. Ask for help (use beta readers).

Editor tip: save time; ask the writer. Express concern or confusion. *Huh?*

REVISION STRATEGY THAT WORKS...

2. CONSISTENCY CHECK

Analyze . . . and revise accordingly.

Are theme and related points consistent throughout?

Writer/editor tip: use your tools; bible study tools, bible websites; etc.

Writer tip: don't type Scripture. Check your numerical use. Do you have 5 of 5, for example.

Editor tip: read like a reader first. Did you get soups to nuts for this writing meal?

Does the writing contradict itself?

Is the use of special features (i.e., bullets, subheads, etc.) consistent?

What's redundant, overdone, or just "wrong"?

REVISION STRATEGY THAT WORKS...

3. COMMUNITY CHECK

Analyze . . . and revise accordingly.

**Revise/Write From
Readers' Perspective**

***Consider All
Readers***

***Editors Are Readers (Meet Editor's
Needs/Expectations)***

***Target
Audience***

Writer/editor tip: be kind to each other!

***Writer tip: revise to maximize your reader.
Is your reader (your fave hero) on every
page?***

***Editor tip: revise from your
writer's perspective and your
reader's need. It's not about
YOU/ME.***

REVISION STRATEGY THAT WORKS...

4. COMPLEXITY CHECK

Analyze . . . and revise accordingly.

Does the writing
meet the KISS test?

Keep it so simple *(keep it
simple, stupid)*

Does the sentence/paragraph
make you shake you head
each read?

Simplify or delete.

**Writer tip: deep is for rivers; don't strive
for deep.**

**Editor tip: mark it "fix" and
keep revising. Get writer input
or suggest revision/deletion.**

REVISION STRATEGY THAT WORKS...

5. CREATIVITY CHECK

Analyze . . . and revise accordingly.

Is it creative?

Cutesy is not creative.

Humor is subjective (and sometimes, cultural)

Is the approach/slant different, interesting, entertaining—or forced?

Writer tip: bring YOU (your voice, cultural, gender, to your writing)—but don't force creativity.

Editor tips: it's OK if you “don't get it” if you're not the target audience. Eliminate or reduce “cutesy” writing.

REVISION STRATEGY THAT WORKS...

6. CHRISTIANITY

Analyze . . . and revise accordingly.

Is it biblical?

Is the writing
scripturally sound?

Writer tip: don't revert to denominational speak that general users may not be familiar with.

Is the writing preachy? Does it use “speaking” references?

Editor tips: revise based on Scripture; ask writers for clarity or revision.

Is the biblical message naturally incorporated or forced?

REVISION STRATEGY THAT WORKS...

BONUS RUSH REVISION STRATEGY. IDENTIFY/CORRECT
COMMON CONTENT ISSUES

Be very
subjective/critical

Review
everything

Spare
nothing

Sentences,
paragraphs

Beginnings, endings

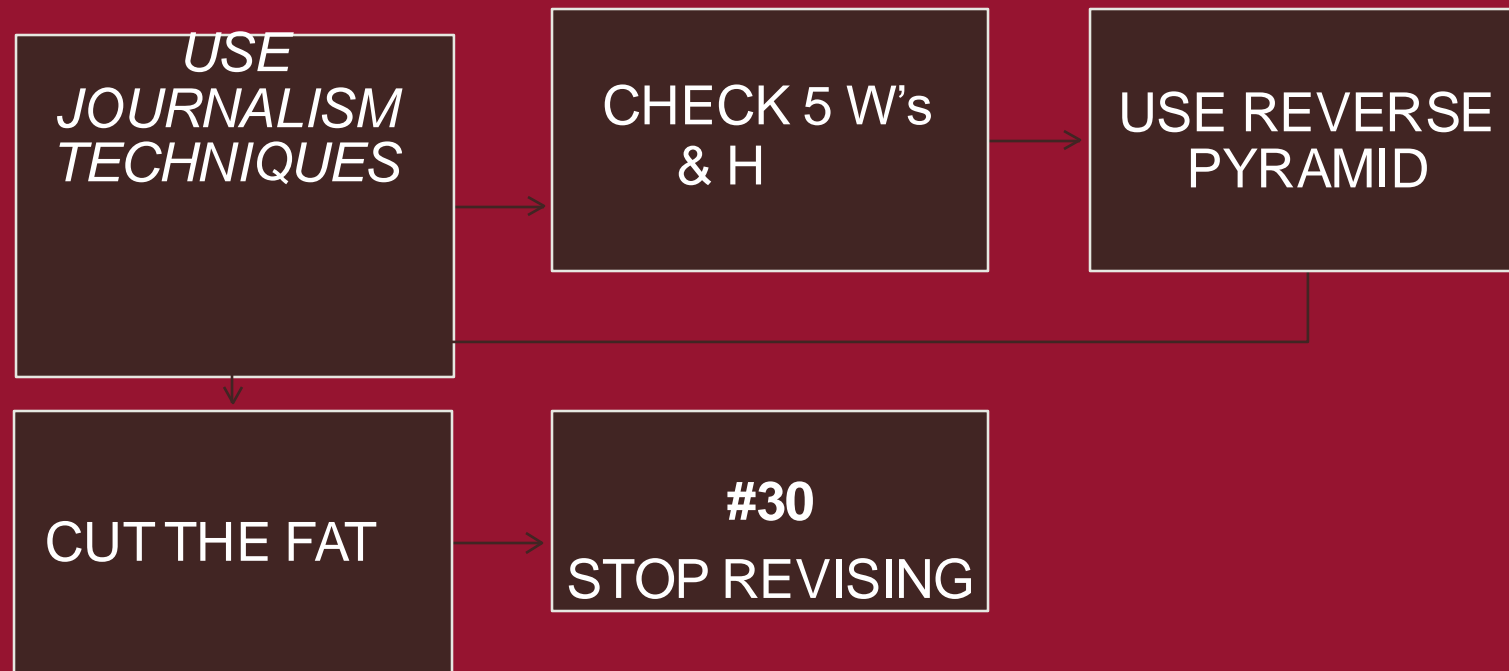
Structure

**Writer tip: adopt an “anything can go”
attitude.**

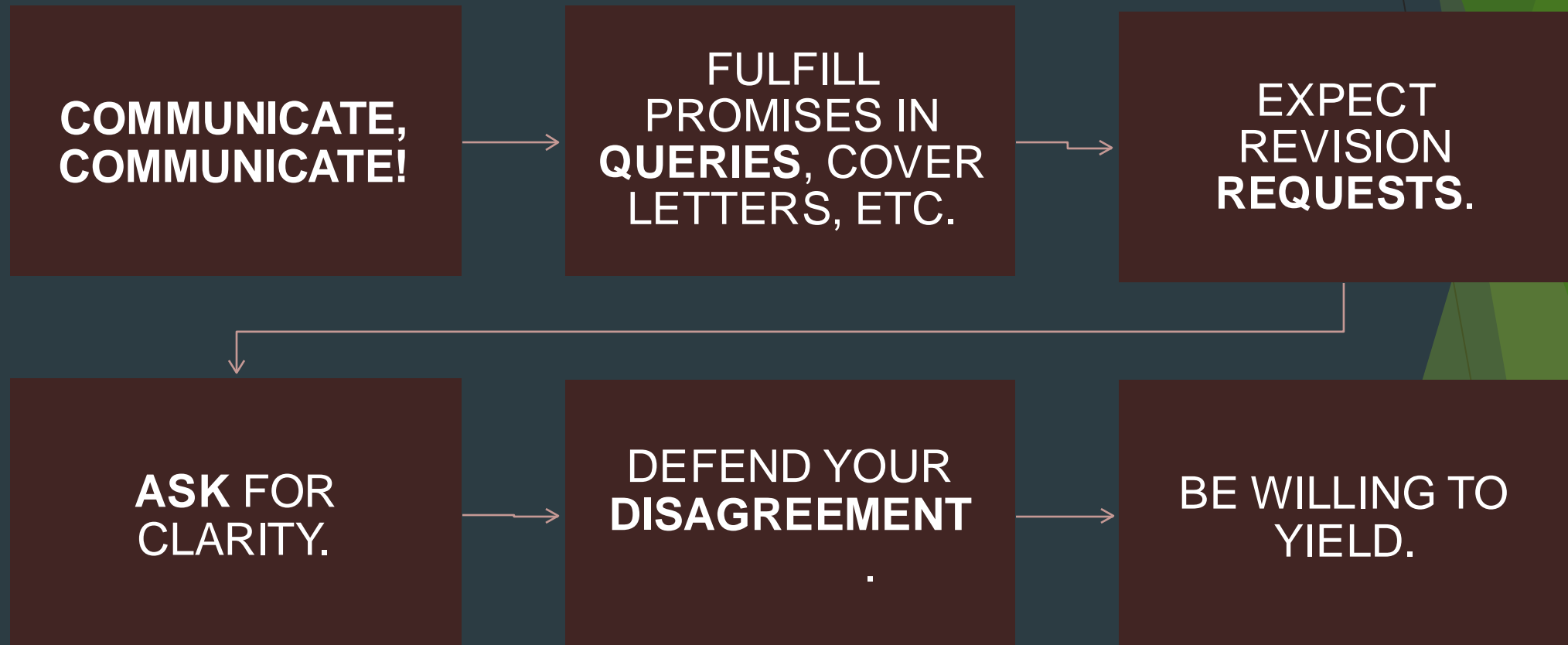
**Editor tip: adopt an “I don’t have to do
this attitude.” Get the write to revise!**

REVISION STRATEGY THAT WORKS...

BONUS STRATEGY. ACT LIKE A JOURNALIST



WORKING WITH EDITORS



PROJECT MANAGEMENT-MULTIPLE PROJECTS

- ☐ Know your deadlines! Schedule them. Check them often.
- ☐ Make time for research.
- ☐ Write the easy first; or switch to easy when writing/revising is difficult.
- ☐ Write in spurts.
- ☐ Use a timer.
- ☐ Request deadlines that work for *you* (i.e., *I include a weekend.*)
- ☐ *Avoid, when possible, competing deadlines.*
- ☐ Limit research. (Find what you need, and stop.)
- ☐ *Work on projects of varying lengths.*
- ☐ *Do not aim for perfection!*

EFFECTIVE TIME MANAGEMENT

- ❖ PRAY!
- ❖ Manage Print & Electronic Files
- ❖ Use Calendars & Planners
- ❖ Determine Daily Word Counts
- ❖ Use Timers
- ❖ SAY NO! (to distractions)
- ❖ Write Something (can't revise blank pgs.)

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