Re- vising your paper

Revision isn't just rewriting, not just "fixing mistakes." It involves re-seeing your work--looking at it again from a different angle. Here's how:

Read it new:
Pretend you are seeing this piece for the first time.
- What is the point of this paper? Where/ how do you find it?
- How easy is it to read? to understand?

A common problem in essays is that they don't convey a controlling idea. It is not enough simply to restate the topic.... Any good essay has something specific to say. Ask yourself: What is the unique idea/insight/assertion I want to convey?
  - What's my thesis sentence-- and where is it?
  - Do opening and closing paragraphs have a common theme?

Map it out:
Once you identify the controlling idea, organization becomes much easier. Each paragraph relates in some way to the whole.
  - Where is each body paragraph headed? is every one necessary to the theme?
  - Is there a good mix of general statements backed up by specifics?

Finally, you'll want to cast a critical eye on clarity of expression.
  - How does each sentence relate to the one before it?
  - What problems seem to be cropping up on the sentence level?

Return to the assignment:

- Go back and re-think the paper in terms of adding, subtracting, and moving sections, paragraphs, blocks of text.
- Go back and consider your audience, reader comments, and your purpose carefully.
  Have you addressed the assignment and/or addressed the issues?

Make a REVISION PLAN for yourself:
Describe specifically your goals on a separate sheet of paper.
Reflect on possibilities for changing and reworking, ideas for the revision, and goals for new version.