

## A Short Take on Revision

BY MARK FARRINGTON

In teaching revision, I give students a number of exercises designed to show them that writing is fluid. I'll ask them to change the point of view of their stories, for instance. I'll have them go to a spot in the story where something happens and write "What if?" in the margin, then list five other things that could happen instead. The point is to demonstrate that working with a piece of writing is more like working with clay than with granite. Writers can add, remove, or reshape anything at any time; some writers even continue to revise a piece after it's been published. When it comes to a piece of writing, nothing is written in stone.

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This teaching strategy originally appeared in *The Journal of the Virginia Writing Project* (Vol. 23, Issue 2). It is reprinted with permission.