



## Flexible thinking

Once you had drawn up a shortlist of possible projects you had to evaluate each one and make a choice. For this you needed to be adaptive and flexible in your thinking, so you could evaluate each topic as objectively as possible. It was important to have the strength of mind not to be so narrowly focused in your thinking that you could not play devil's advocate and consider alternative strategies that might be more effective. You had to be prepared to abandon even your most cherished ideas, when it became clear that there were other projects that would work more effectively.

The same was true when you came to revise your work. The more you revised the more the quality of your work really shone through, but this called for flexibility in your thinking and the willingness to play devil's advocate. To ensure that your ideas were expressed with absolute clarity and consistency, and your arguments were developed as clearly as possible, you had to be willing to make the really difficult decisions. You had to show that you are not so fixed in your thinking that you cannot bear the thought of changing anything once you've done something. This meant cutting out some sections and rewriting others even when this involved sections that you really liked.