Higher Order Concerns

Higher Order Concerns (HOC) should be the priority during revision because they have the greatest impact on successful communication. Following is a list of HOCs and brief descriptions to help you choose online feedback.

Overall Argument
Feedback focuses on strength of evidence and how evidence relates back to the overall claim/thesis.

Thesis
Feedback focuses on how significant, arguable, and focused the thesis of your paper is. Additionally, how relevant your thesis is to the needs of the assignment/prompt will be reviewed.

Consistency of Argument
Feedback focuses on relevance and logic of each paragraph to the argument.

Supporting Points
Feedback focuses on how the supporting points address the main topic.

Assignment Organization
Feedback focuses on the movement between ideas, specifically looking for logical progression and transitions between ideas.

Paragraph Organization
Feedback focuses on how ideas are developed within paragraphs, specifically introducing and concluding ideas, strength of analysis/synthesis, and depth of explanations.

Introduction
Feedback focuses on how well the introduction creates interest, identifies the main point, provides necessary context/background info, and previews the essay.

Conclusion
Feedback focuses on the strength of the conclusion, specifically looking at connections to the thesis/research question and discussions of future implications.

Tone
Feedback focuses on consistency of disciplinary language and purpose of assignment/genre.

Genre Expectations
Feedback focuses on how well the writing fits with expectations of the genre and discipline (e.g. rhetorical analysis in English, biology lab report, educational research proposal).
Audience Awareness
Feedback focuses on how effectively the argument/discussion/analysis addresses expectations of target audience, as well as how the information will engage the audience.

Analysis
Feedback focuses examination of topic, relevant research, and interpretations, specifically looking for multiple perspectives including counterarguments (if applicable).

Synthesis
Feedback focuses on use of different sources, research, or datasets in combination with each other to build a larger argument, point, or state of knowledge.

Examples & Explanation
Feedback focuses on introduction and explanation of examples as well as range of examples and significance and relevancy of explanations.

Credibility of Sources
Feedback focuses on currency of sources, relevance of sources to the claim/thesis (e.g. not just to the topic), authority of authors, publishers, and organizations related to the sources, and methodology (if possible) of relevant data used.

Integration of Sources
Feedback focuses on reviewing sources relative to how well they are integrated within the text, including relevance to claim/thesis, introduction, and explanation.

Unity
Feedback focuses on how well the supporting points follow the claim/thesis and the movement between ideas.

Formatting
Feedback focused on comparing the document to the formatting expectations of the assignment as listed on a rubric or as relevant to a style, such as MLA or APA, including margins, font style and size, spacing, use of page headers, internal headers, and indentation.

Readability
Feedback focuses on examining how understandable and clear the content of the paper is.

Outline
Feedback focuses on examining outlines for opportunities for expansion and development of ideas and how they are arranged.

Brainstorming
Feedback focuses on the potential for starting points and ideas, pointing out opportunities for development and integration of research and evidence.
Lower Order Concerns
Later Order Concerns (LOC) are focused on sentence and word level concerns. Following is a list of LOCs and brief descriptions to help you choose online feedback.

In-Text Citations
Feedback focuses on reviewing in-text citations for accuracy and formatting based on the publication/citation style being used (e.g., AMA, APA, MLA).

References
Feedback focuses on examining formatting and arrangement of reference citation entries.

Assignment Parameters
Feedback focuses on comparing the document with the assignment rubric (provided by the student), looking for adherence to assignment guidelines, such as source requirements, page length, section arrangement.

Commas
Feedback focuses on examining if commas are being used correctly and appropriately.

Noun-Verb Agreement
Feedback focuses on agreement between nouns and their associated verbs, such as plural versus singular.

Sentence Variety
Feedback focuses on reviewing readability based on variations in sentence patterns in terms of length, construction, and word choice.

Concision
Feedback focuses on using the most efficient and effective language choices, including pointing out unnecessary words, ineffective repetition words/patterns, and passive constructions (if genre appropriate).

Clarity
Feedback focuses on examining word choice and patterns to determine where ideas are confusing or ambiguous.

Article Usage
Feedback focuses on appropriate articles: a, an, and the.

Prepositions
Feedback focuses on effective use of prepositions and prepositional phrases within the context of individual sentences.

Specialty Punctuation
Feedback focuses on examining usage and opportunities related to punctuation such as semicolons, parentheses, em dashes, etc.
Paragraph Transitions
Feedback focuses on movement between paragraphs, specifically how effectively logical order and transitions/transitional devices are used.

Sentence Transitions
Feedback focuses on examining sentences for how well they follow a logical organization, providing options for integrating transitions/transitional devices.

Sentence Structure
Feedback focuses on examining sentence structures to ensure they follow clear organizational patterns and that component parts of speech (e.g. nouns, verbs) are effectively used.