YOUR Writing Process

Presenter: Michelle Detorie
Student Learning Outcomes

After attending this workshop, students should be able to do the following:

• Review the typical stages of the writing process
• describe the act of writing as they have experienced it
• explore various ways to navigate these stages
• respond more productively, in a more focused manner, to each stage of the writing process as, for example, a way to plan next steps
What does “writing process” mean to you?
Many simplify the writing process into 4 easy steps:

1. **Brainstorming/Prewriting**
   - Developing ideas; gathering information; organizing

2. **Drafting/Writing**
   - Writing a first draft; getting ideas down on paper

3. **Revising/Rewriting**
   - Developing initial ideas; adding and subtracting ideas; refining language

4. **Editing/Proofreading**
   - Proofreading for grammatical and mechanical errors and mistakes
# The Writing Process (Reality)

| 1. Brainstorming          | 10. Editing       |
| 2. Writing                | 11. Revising     |
| 3. Revising               | 12. Writing      |
| 4. Editing                | 13. Thinking     |
| 5. Drafting               | 14. Writing      |
| 6. Proofreading           | 15. Proofreading |
| 7. Prewriting             | 16. Drafting     |
| 8. Thinking               | 17. Revising     |
| 9. Writing                | 18. And on and on... |

**CHAOS!!!**
Understanding the Writing Process

• Writing is a process, and it doesn’t happen all at once.
• It takes time and often involves returning to earlier steps throughout the process.
• Many writers find themselves writing and thinking through their ideas multiple times.
• This is because writers discover ideas and learn more about what they want to say as they write.
So, writing is a process that begins at one point in time and ends in another. BUT the process itself isn’t a straight line. This can make the process feel uncomfortable or confusing.
Understanding the Writing Process

Success

what people think it looks like

Success

what it really looks like
YOUR Writing Process

• Each writer has a unique writing process.

• As you practice writing, you are also developing an understanding of your individual writing process.

• Paying attention to this process can help you
  • Recognize what you do well and where you struggle so that you can shape and develop your process in a productive and thoughtful way.
  • identify what you’ve done in an individual assignment so that you can plan what you need to do next.
Activity 1:
Getting to know yourself as a writer

Use the space in the first two columns to reflect on your writing process and describe your writing experiences.
There is no “correct” way to prewrite, draft, or revise.

The writing process is cyclical and variable. For different writers, the process may include reading, brainstorming, outlining, drafting, getting feedback, revising, and editing. These stages do not always happen in this order, and once a writer has been through a particular stage, chances are she or he hasn't seen the last of that stage. For example, brainstorming may occur all along the way.

Experiment with different methods to determine what works for you.
Activity 2: Exploring ways to develop your process

Take a look at the list of potential steps in the writing process on the back of the handout. Check off the steps that you have tried or done before. Underline the steps that you would like to try.
Most importantly, don’t try to do everything at once.

"If a teacher told me to revise, I thought that meant my writing was a broken-down car that needed to go to the repair shop. I felt insulted. I didn't realize the teacher was saying, ‘Make it shine. It's worth it.’ Now I see revision as a beautiful word of hope. It's a new vision of something. **It means you don't have to be perfect the first time.** What a relief!"

Naomi Shihab Nye
Take Home Activities
Planning

• Use the space in the third column to make notes about how you might shape, develop, or deepen your process

• Use the YOUR Writing Process handout to evaluate where you are in the process for a specific assignment.
Additional Resources

• Explore these additional resources, available in the Writing Center or on our website at: http://sbcc.edu/clrc/writing_center.
  – Assignment Analysis
  – The Writing Process
  – Prewriting Strategies
  – Going over your paper: Self-Editing Strategies
  – Checking the structure of your Essay
  – Structure of a General Expository Essay
Upcoming CLRC Workshops
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 – 1:50 PM

• Writing Skills Workshops
  – Revising Strategies— October 18th
  – Essentials of Research—October 30th
  – Introduction to Citation—November 1st
  – MLA Citation—November 13th
  – APA Citation—November 15th
Thank you

Dr. Jerry Pike, CLRC Director  pike@sbcc.edu
Nina Mahaffey, CLRC Supervisor  mahaffey@sbcc.edu
Michelle Detorie, WC Teaching Assistant  mmdetorie@sbcc.edu
Beth Taylor-Schott, WC Teaching Assistant  EATaylorScho@sbcc.edu
Works Cited

• Slides 4 & 5: “Improving Your Writing Process”
  www.keiseruniversity.edu/Keiser%20Writes/The%20Writing%20Process%20-%20Improving%20Your%20WP.ppt
  The Writing Studio at Keiser University, 2007

Image Sources

• Slide 8: “Success” by Demetri Martin, *This is a Book* http://demetrimartin.com/

• Slide 9: Writing Process Images
  Yellow bubbles with red arrows: http://ncowie.wordpress.com/2009/02/15/creative-writing-process/
  Pie chart process visual http://www.sasked.gov.sk.ca/docs/xla/ela15c1.html
  Essay writing process (spiral) http://dlibrary.acu.edu.au/Faculties/LearnDrama/essays.htm
  Flow chart http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/Frameworks/la/30contnt.htm
  Flow chart (circles) http://www.webster.edu/writingcenter/tips/process.shtml
  Flow chart (back and forth arrows) http://stevendkrause.com/tprw/introduction.html

All other images are from the Microsoft Office Clip Art Library

*This educational presentation incorporates portions of copyrighted works. These items are included under the fair use exemption of the U.S. Copyright Law and have been prepared according to the educational fair use guidelines. They are restricted from further use.*