Assignment 1

# The Process of Writing

Writing is an active thinking process that allows the writer to explore ideas, stimulate new thoughts, and discover new ways to solve problems. This process is often treated as a linear one that, if followed step by step, will lead to a successfully written product. Although some writers may write this way, most devise their own ways of generating ideas and writing, usually from their own experiences of what works for them.

The whole writing process can be divided into the pre-writing, the writing, and the re-writing or the revising phases.

In the prewriting phase, one might try to clarify

* What one wants to write about?
* How one thinks and feels about a topic?
* How one wants to approach the topic?
* What other materials and notes one might need?
* How to organize these materials?
* What kind of audience one is writing for?

The writer plans the content and organization of their paper or assignment during this first phase. In the writing phase, they implement their plan — their strategy — working out the details and fine-tuning the thoughts. In the rewriting, or revising phase, they review what they have written and consider how and where the writing can be improved.

Sometimes, these phases are quite distinct and separate, but most of the writers seldom have clear boundaries. They overlap in a recursive fashion rather than fall in place as an orderly sequence of steps, one neatly following from the other.

When one works on longer research papers, one will generate ideas, gather information, plan the organization, and write one’s draft. They may go back later to revise it. When one writes shorter assignments or essays, one may plan, write, and revise as they go along. In most cases, they may revise their plan, their organization, and their content on their way to the final draft.

# The Pre-Writing Phase

The purpose of prewriting is to generate an abundance of raw material and notes that will give you some strategies for writing one’s first draft. Starting a draft too soon, without the results of the prewriting phase, leads to poorly constructed writing that often contains weak generalities. Papers tend to reflect superficial treatment of the assignment. Prewriting is not an isolated event; it is the way to look ahead to drafting and revising, enabling a piece of writing to grow.

Prewriting is a systematic thinking process that helps one to probe what one will write. Prewriting techniques help one determine the rhetorical approach to take and how to plan for implementing it. Prewriting planning enables one to explore a topic from different perspectives, engage their imagination and creativity, discover original ideas, and perceive not-so-obvious relationships between and among ideas.

Using systematic techniques, the writers have a clear understanding to work with details and directions, and helps in ordering the information and work habits. Classic strategies like definition, division and classification, comparison and contrast, cause and effect and process analysis formulate a logical way to organise a piece of writing.

Brainstorming enables a writer to find ideas that may be submerged in the mind, memory and intuition. An added benefit of brainstorming is that the writers bring their own personal perspectives, knowledge, memory and creativity to their writings. This leads to original content in the finished writing product.

Another aspect of the prewriting phase is outlining. It is a highly analytical technique that assumes the writer already knows the how, what, where, when, why and who aspects of the topic.

Exploratory research is a transition point from the prewriting to the writing phase. Research often provides information that can help one formulate a thesis and write an outline.

# The Writing Phase

In the actual writing phase, the writer determines a working thesis. This thesis changes as the writer revises the draft to make it final and states the purpose and topic of one’s writing. One has to be confident about the controlling idea to indicate the direction and often, the writing strategy they will adopt.

As one begins writing their first draft, one shall find themselves cycling through basic activities: interpreting notes, research material, organizing ideas, refining the thesis and revising the draft. Writing tends to flow from the thesis statement with its controlling idea, subsequent sections provide the information in line with the outlines and notes.

Freewriting is a tool that helps with getting content out of one’s brainstorming sessions in text. One could choose not to evaluate the mechanics of grammar, punctuation and spelling and constantly rewrite the content and recursively

# The Post-Writing Phase