

**What is the writing
process?**

Writing is not **magic!**



Stages of Writing

- **Prewriting**
- **Drafting**
- **Revising**
- **Editing**



Prewriting

- Prewriting is the process of coming up with ideas for your essay.
- This is not formal, polished writing.
- There are many prewriting techniques, but we will be discussing:
 - Brainstorming
 - Freewriting
 - Clustering
 - Outlining

Brainstorming

Just think!

Freewriting

Just write!

Clustering

- A way of narrowing your thoughts by connecting your ideas
- Great techniques for visual learners

Topics to choose from

- Who knows me best?
- What do I worry about?
- Something this school really needs is . . .
- Why are soap operas so popular?
- An unforgettable dream
- My worst vacation
- My first concert

Outlining

- Outlining comes after you already have the ideas for your paper.
- It is a way of laying out your thoughts before you begin writing.
- Use bullet points to write down each concept you want to mention in the order you want to mention them.
- For more detail, see the Writing Center's handout on outlining.

Drafting

- The draft is the first attempt to organize information.
- Typically called a *rough draft* for a reason.
- **YOU WILL MAKE MISTAKES!**
- Your essay structure does not need to be perfect.



Try it!
(again!)

Revising

- Reworking your essay so that the ideas are expressed in the best way possible.
- Revising is not the editing stage.

Global Revision	Local Revision
Content	Grammar, spelling, etc.
Structure	
Thesis	
Strong supporting points	

Editing

- Editing is eliminating punctuation, grammar, and spelling mistakes.
- Should be saved for the end of the writing process.
- SpellCheck can be a false friend!

Checklist for Editing

- Have you read your work aloud to listen for problems?
- Did you check every possible misspelling in a dictionary?
- Have you avoided run-ons?
- Are you using verbs, pronouns, and modifiers correctly?
- Have you used your punctuation correctly?
- Are your capital letters correct?

How did we do?