

Writing Process Stages

Prewriting

Writers “get their thoughts out;” they generate ideas, stimulate thoughts, make plans, create a desire to write, and make some initial organizational decisions.

Topic:	the “what” of writing
Audience:	to “whom” students are writing
Purpose:	the “why” of writing
Form:	the shape or structure of the writing

Drafting

Writers are “getting it down” with a purpose and audience in mind.

Voice:	a clear reflection of the writer’s individuality; the composition sounds authentic, original, and highly individualistic
Aesthetic fluency:	the writer’s ability to create flow or movement that enhances the reader’s understanding of a written composition
Technical fluency:	the internalized command of conventions that allows the writer to write with ease, accuracy, and automaticity
Development:	the writer’s thorough and specific expansion of ideas that deepens the reader’s understanding of a composition
Organization:	the writer’s logical progression of thought from sentence to sentence and paragraph to paragraph; the use of strategies and overall form or structure that provide for the effective communication of ideas

Revising

Writers “look again” at their writing to add, substitute, delete, and/or modify the content to clarify meaning and expand ideas.

Editing

Writers focus on the mechanics of the piece; they edit and proofread for spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and syntax to enhance the clarity and effectiveness of the writing.

Publishing

Writers share their work with others.