

Millersville University
THE WRITING CENTER

Writing Process



Writing Process

OVERVIEW

Definition

Developing

Tips

—— **Generating**

—— **Drafting**

—— **Revising**

Practice

DEFINITION

What Does A Successful Writing Process Look Like?

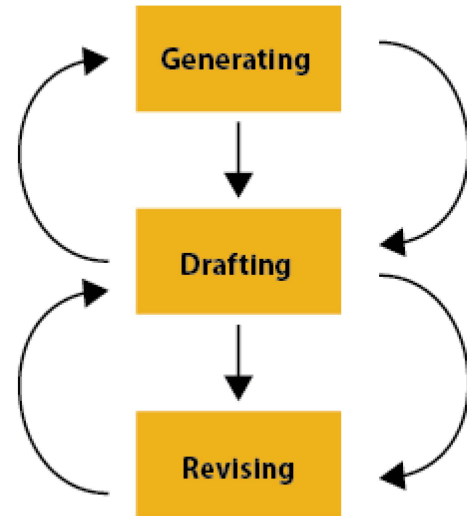
There is no one-size-fits-all writing process, and what makes a successful process for one person may not be effective for another. It will likely take some trial and error to find what suits you best; however, below are a few examples that are generally helpful for most students.

Writing Process

DEFINITION

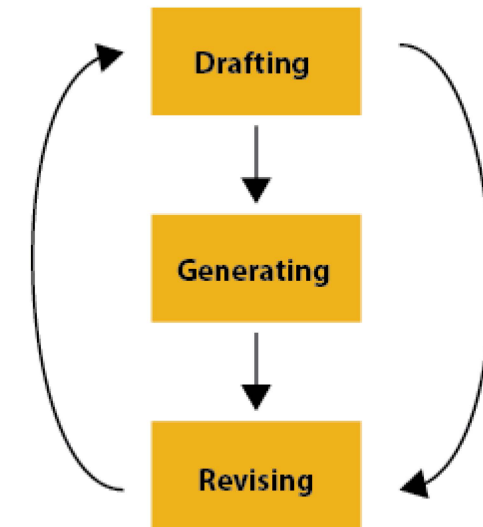
What Does A Successful Writing Process Look Like?

Process A



Some writers benefit from beginning their process with generating ideas, followed by drafting, then revising what is written, then drafting more of their text. They would then generate more ideas and repeat the process until satisfied with their work.

Process B



Some writers benefit from beginning their process with drafting out something initially, followed by stopping to generate ideas, then revising what is written, then drafting more of their text.

DEVELOPING

Developing Your Process

When considering where you want to start in the writing process, you will need to ensure that **all three phases are included**. Think about which phase feels natural as a starting point. If simply getting started poses a challenge, perhaps beginning with drafting will be the best, but if you need a guide to get started, you may find the generating phase to be best.

DEVELOPING

The Three Phases of the Writing Process

Generating

This phase consists of generating ideas. This can occur during the writing process as well as during pre-writing.

Drafting

This phase consists of writing the preliminary or unfinished version of the text. This can be either a partial draft or a full draft of the text.

Revising

This phase consists of looking at your work with fresh eyes and making adjustments and edits. This phase typically occurs after generating and drafting.

DEVELOPING

Things to Keep in Mind

- There is no right or wrong process for writing
- It is almost never linear or sequential, meaning it won't follow a one phase to the next neatly and will cycle between the phases
- It is okay if your process looks different when writing different types of text (e.g.: an academic essay vs. a creative short story will likely require different processes)

Writing Process

TIPS

Tips for the Generating Phase

- Try brainstorming by making a list of ideas
- Try freewriting for 5 to 10 minutes
- Make a web/diagram of different words or ideas
- Try creating an outline or flowchart to help with determine the structure of your text

Writing Process

TIPS

Tips for the Drafting Phase

- Avoid getting stuck on finding the right word
- Don't worry about grammar and details, which don't have to be perfect in a draft
- Focus on keeping your flow and pace while writing- the goal is to just have a draft not a polished work
- Make sure if you already have a thesis to keep that in mind
- Feel free to draft only part of your text if you want to revise before drafting the rest

Writing Process

TIPS

Tips for the Revising Phase

- Consider your audience, and ensure you are writing in a manner that will communicate your thoughts to them effectively
- Be mindful of your message and make sure that message is coming through in your text
- Make sure you integrated kairos, creating a sense of urgency, relevancy, or importance to your readers
- Think about how you are expressing yourself in your text through your tone, voice, and style
- Ensure that your text is cohesive
- Now is the time to review details like grammar, spelling, and similar conventions

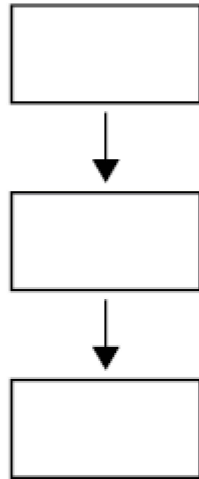
Writing Process

PRACTICE

What Does Your Writing Process Look Like?

Using either the worksheet provided or a spare sheet of paper fill out your preferred writing process, note your topic research question, or thesis statement, and begin implementing your process

1st



Fill in your preferred order for your writing process, then draw any outside arrows to indicate steps you return to.

Include: **Generating**, **Drafting**, and **Revising**

2nd

Topic, Research Question, or Thesis Statement

Take note of your working topic, research question, or thesis statement to help guide you in the writing process (this can be refined later if needed)

3rd

Generating

Use the space on the paper to generate ideas for your paper or text

Drafting and Revising

To draft and then revise your paper, you will need a separate paper or may use a word document

For More Information

Make An Appointment With the Writing Center

Make an appointment through Starfish



or send an email to the Writing Center and a tutor will be in touch

 writing.center@millersville.edu

 <https://www.millersville.edu/enwl/writing-center/>

 McNairy Library, Room 106

Open Monday - Friday

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The Writing Center