

The Writing Process

TIP:
The three most important things in writing are ideas, ideas, ideas!

Prewriting Activities
Activities that help the writer to generate ideas and form an intention to write.
Focus on the exploration of thoughts, ideas, feelings, and experiences.

Drafting
The writer gets a response down in rough form.
Focus on writing variables: central idea, form, purpose, public audience, and context. Then brainstorm and organize content before developing text.

Revising
The writer gets feedback on the draft from a reader or listener.
Focus on sharing, clarity of ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and reflection.

Editing
The writer "cleans up" the piece.
Focus on writing conventions: checking for correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, paragraphing, grammar, and usage.

Presenting
The writer goes public.
Focus on presenting, celebrating, and community building.

Many writers work through a series of steps that break down the work of writing into tasks and make it easier to deal with.

TIP:
Not all writing forms and genres will require you to go through all of these stages. A diary, for example, often has just one draft and generally won't be presented in public.