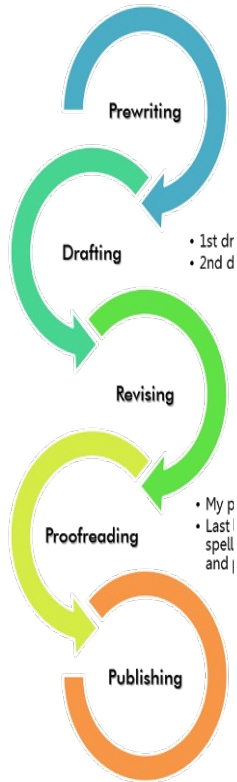


Personal / narrative essay: How I Write

Is your writing process like this?



Or more like this?



Many college writing textbooks talk about the writing process in a fairly simplified way, something like “prewrite – write – revise.” This does not show how writers tend to go back and forth within the stages, and it also doesn’t show an end to the process. Of course, we can keep on revising a work (just check out how many times George Lucas has reworked *Star Wars: A New Hope*), but at some point we have to hand our writing over to an audience: a teacher, an employer, a publisher; in other words, readers. This project asks you to compose a description of your personal writing process.

There are more factors besides the actual writing process to delve into. Where do you tend to write? How does technology help (or hinder) your writing process? What soundtrack do you like to write to, or must you write in silence? Do you snack while writing? Do you talk to friends about what you’re writing? Contrast how you write for fun (social media, fiction writing, texting) versus how you write for school or work. Most of all, don’t feel like you have to lie about your writing process – if you procrastinate, describe that. Let’s share how we engage in the agony and the ecstasy of writing.

You can use whatever style you like – academic, breezy, conversational, humorous, serious, casual, etc.

You can use different typefaces (fonts) and font effects, such as bold, italics, underline, color, etc., to help convey your message. You may also integrate relevant images as you see fit. No need to strictly follow MLA, APA, etc., though you should accurately cite any quotes or data you include in your essay. Expected word count should be at least 1300.

Week 1

Tuesday, Jan 10 – review syllabus; what do you enjoy reading? what’s your writing process? The connection between reading and writing. What writing do you want to do in class this semester? Essay 1: “How I Write.” Introduction to freewriting.

This week’s work – participate in class introductions discussion board; begin work on “how I write” essay; read “Shitty First Drafts” by Lamont; “Responding – Really Responding – to Other Students’ Writing by Straub; and Tech Tips (Files > Week 1 Readings).

Week 2

Tuesday, Jan 17 – What is narrative? What is storytelling, and how does it function in non-fiction genres? How to peer review.

This week’s work – upload draft of “how I write” essay and complete assigned peer review. Complete assigned essay and reading from *Storycraft* (tba) and post to discussion board.

Week 3

Tuesday, Jan 24 – Responding to feedback and revising; proofreading.

This week’s work – begin revising essay 1; complete assigned essay reading and reading from *Storycraft* (tba) and post to discussion board.

Week 4

Tuesday, Jan 31 – review non-fiction essays and *Storycraft* that we have read over the past two weeks; begin essay 2, exploratory essay – the relationship between technology and writing; freewrite on new topic.

This week’s work – Submit essay 1.