

Let's take a close look at YOUR WRITING PROCESS



Composition theorist Ann Berthoff
describes writing as a nonlinear process
where the “*what and the how continually inform one another.*”

Some Important Questions About You As a Writer

- What prevents you from being a more efficient writer?
 - What prevents you from being a more effective writer?
 - How can you become a more confident writer?
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Some Important Questions About Your Writing Process

- Do you come up with ideas by talking, writing, or thinking in the shower?
 - Do you write one draft or many?
 - Do you like to have one sentence “just right” before moving on to the next?
 - Are you a planner or a jumper?
 - Are you a short or long writer?
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Strategies for Writing

- Write from your own personality.
 - Recognize the writing process that feels most natural to you.
 - Rely on those preferences to start writing.
 - Draw on both your preferences and your non-preferences when you revise.
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How to Approach Writing a Paper

- Consider the purpose.
- Identify your audience.
- Think about possible content.
- Draw on both your preferences and your non-preferences when you revise.

Three Parts of the Writing Process

Prewriting
Drafting
Revising

Prewriting

- Brainstorming: generating and classifying
 - Freewriting: a stretching exercise to get ideas flowing
 - Looping: bringing ideas into sharper focus
 - Clustering/webbing/mapping: organizing ideas spatially
 - Listing: jotting down ideas
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Drafting

- What works best for you?
 - Do you need to let ideas percolate until you feel ready and then write a “clean draft” or do you write multiple, messy drafts?
 - Do you have to draft to see what you think or do you draft in your head?
 - Based on your natural preferences, choose the writing rituals that work best for you.
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Revising

- Revise for meaning: Evaluate claim(s) and evidence.
 - Revise for purpose: Evaluate tone and persona.
 - Revise for organization: Reverse outline.
 - Revise for style.
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Need Some Help?

Human, Electronic, and Printed Guides

Scheduling an Appointment at the Writing Studio <http://aas.duke.edu/wstudio>
Duke University Writing Studio Resources for Writers <http://www.ctlw.duke.edu/wstudio/resources/>

Forming, Thinking, Writing by Ann Berthoff

Write From the Start by Ann B. Loomis

Writing With Power by Peter Elbow