Writing Process

Having Writing POWER

ENG 111

SP SOUTH PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

"Sail away from the safe harbor...Explore. Dream. Discover."

--Mark Twain

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Writing as Inquiry

- Writing should be a process of discovery.

- Begin with questions:
  - How can my topic be defined?
  - Described?
  - Explained?
  - Analyzed?
  - What are the different viewpoints?
  - What are my feelings?
  - WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? WHY? HOW?

Writing POWER

- **P**lan and **P**rewrite (and **P**reliminary Research)

- **O**rganize

- **W**rite

- **E**dit Revise

Planning and Pre-writing: Generating Ideas

- All good writing revolves around ideas.

- Many writers need to write out their ideas and play with them.

Planning

- Brainstorming
- Mapping
- Clustering
- Listing
- What I Know/What I Don't Know
- Freewriting

Freewriting

- Write quickly without stopping
  - 5-10 minutes

- Write subject at top of paper
  - No Subject
  - Just Start Writing
- Read
- Write

Organizing

- Outline

- "Hourglass"
  - The hourglass lays out the organizational Pattern for you.

- Thesis Statement
  - If you have a workable, three-pronged THESIS – then you have the order already set.

Writing

- Write your draft quickly

- Write your draft in one sitting

- Write to discover what you want to say

- Don't worry about grammatical or factual correctness just write.

Writing

- Establish personal deadlines

  - Start early

  - Break assignment up into smaller assignments

  - Stick to self-determined deadlines

Writing (Continued)

- Be Flexible

  - Writing is part of a process of discovery.

  - Expect the words to take you in a different direction.

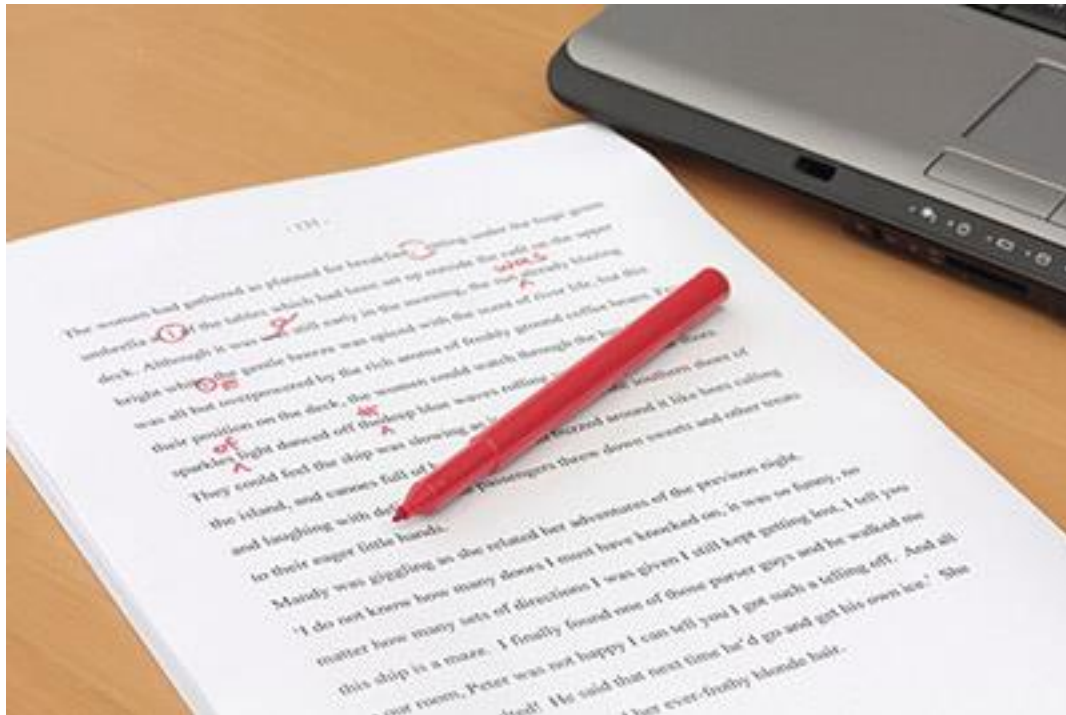 - Follow a new path if it takes you where you want to go.

Writer's Block!

- Tips?

- Do your best
- Don't put too much pressure on yourself
- Take a break
  - Take a walk
  - Take a jog
  - Watch some T.V.

Edit

- Fragments?

- Comma splices?

- Passive voice?

- Spelling?

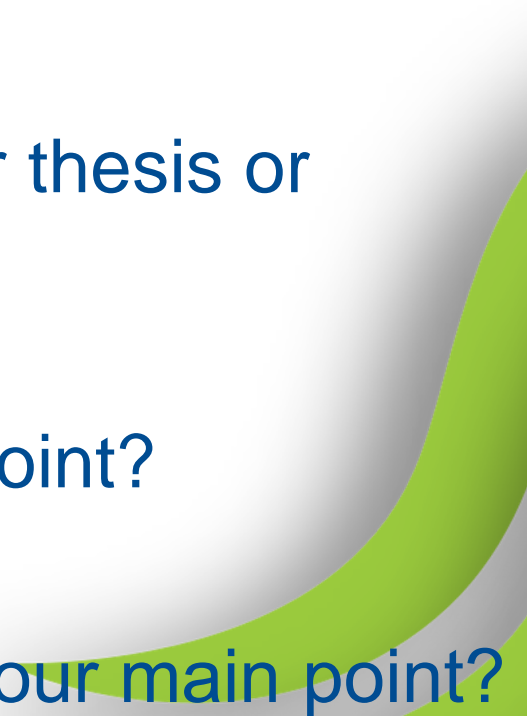- Punctuation?

- Missing words and phrases?

Revising: Examining the Text

- Assess with critical eye
- Does it meet the rhetorical situation?
  - Purpose
  - Audience
  - Stance
- Review global issues:
  - Focus/thesis
  - Organization
  - Reasons and support
  - Clarity

Revising:
Focus/Thesis

- What is your THESIS? Is it narrow or broad enough for your audience?

- How does the beginning focus attention on your thesis or main point?

- Does each paragraph support or develop that point?

- Does the ending leave readers thinking about your main point?

Revising:
Organization and Guiding the Reader

- Do I have a clear hook and background and thesis in the INTRO?

- Do I have multiple paragraphs in the BODY?

- Do I have a CONCLUSION that restates the thesis, summarizes, etc?

- Is your text complete? Does your genre require a References or Works Cited page?

- What TRANSITIONS help readers move from idea to idea?

- Is each paragraph related with topic sentences that GUIDE my reader?

Revising:
Reasons and Support

- What REASONS and EVIDENCE do you give to support your thesis?

- What key terms and concepts do you DEFINE?

- Is there LOGOS—logical explanations and quotes and information that support my thesis?

- Is my information credible and documented?

Revising:
Clarity

- Does your title announce the subject and create interest?

- Do you state your THESIS directly?

- Does your beginning tell readers what they need to understand about your text?

- Does your ending help make sense of your intentions?

- Do you provide appropriate background information?

- Do you use TRANSITIONS and vary your sentences?

Revising:
Getting Response

- The most helpful eyes belong to others.

- Easy for others to see mistakes
  - Peers
  - Tutors
  - Instructor

- Take advantage of the Academic Support Center!

Revising:
Getting Response

- Give yourself time to revise

  - Set deadlines

    - Practice savage editing
    - Nothing is sacred
    - Cut out what does not work

- Revise to sharpen your focus

  - Examine your THESIS
    - Does it match your PURPOSE?
    - Ensure paragraphs contribute to your main point.

  - Read your beginning and ending
    - Do the first paragraph introduce topic?
    - Do the final paragraph bring closure?

Revising:
Based on Response

- Revise to strengthen the argument
  - Define terms
  - Add examples
  - Provide detail
  - Add additional research
- Revise to improve organization
  - Paragraphs follow the previous appropriately
  - Use transitions to connect paragraphs
  - Delete what does not work

REVISE
- RE-SEE
- ALIGN STRUCTURE
- ALIGN THESIS