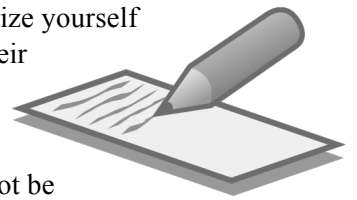


# THE WRITING PROCESS

*"Writing is a process, not merely a product." (Purdue OWL)*

1. Start by finding out when your paper or assignment is due and create a plan of action. Develop a timeline for yourself.
2. Use the Rhetorical Situation to think about your paper. (Purpose, Audience, Stance, Genre, Medium/Design).
3. Begin prewriting. Start with a research question (not a yes or no question, but a question that can be answered in your paper). If you can't come up with a research question, begin brainstorming. Create a list, cluster, or concept map about your topic. Then, rethink how you can turn your brainstorming into a research question. Ask yourself what the purpose is for writing about the topic? How are you going to successfully achieve this purpose?
4. If you are writing a research paper, begin exploring research on your topic and familiarize yourself with the language and terminologies used by scholars in the field. You want to enter their ongoing conversation. Continue researching until you feel comfortable enough to write about your topic.
5. Write a tentative thesis statement/argument/main point. Your thesis statement should not be something that can be answered easily. Try this template and see if it helps:



\_\_\_\_\_ should/is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_. Whatever thesis statement you come up with, you should use it as a guide for your outline and paper.

6. Develop a rough outline of your paper.
7. Develop a detailed outline. Start filling in your rough outline with more specific details/reasons/evidence/explanations/examples.
8. Write your rough draft. Remember it's just a draft. Step away from it for a while after you write it. Talk with your friends and peers about the topic.
9. Revisit your draft after a day or two. Read it critically and make sure it flows. Revise, add, and delete where necessary. Find a peer in your class or a strong writer to review your paper with. Finding someone who is knowledgeable about the topic is good but not necessary. Look at the global issues of your paper first. Global revision pertains to the big picture of your paper and involves ideas, purpose, audience, evidence, analysis, and organization. Take care of global revisions first (why work about grammar and sentence structure if you decide during the revision process to delete the sentence containing a local issue?).
10. Begin self-editing. Read your paper aloud. You will notice mistakes that you might not necessarily catch with silently reading your paper.
11. Next, begin making local changes, which focus more on sentence-level revisions: changing words so that a sentence is clearer, correcting grammatical or spelling errors, etc..
12. Proofread your paper for errors again! Come to the Student Success Center at any point in the Writing Process. We are here to help you!



*"Anyone who says writing is easy isn't doing it right." (Amy Joy)*