The Writing Process
Unlock the Mystery of Essay Writing

The Process
1. Prewriting
2. Outlining
3. Drafting
4. Revision/Editing

Finally - FINAL DRAFT!

Prewriting is the time to . . .
• Identify your topic
• Determine the purpose and audience
• Understand the limits (guidelines given by instructor)
• Conduct research (depending on the type of essay)
• Explore the subject

During Prewriting . . .
• Explore your subject through
  – Brainstorming
  – Clustering
  – Listing
  – Freewriting
• Work spontaneously

Outlining lets you . . .
• Create order from your prewriting
• Give a structure to your essay
• Envision the whole

Simplified Outline
I. Introduction
   Thesis: State main idea of essay
II. First point
   A. Support
   B. Support
III. Second point
IV. Third point
V. Conclusion
Drafting your essay

- Use your outline to keep you on track
- Write an introduction
  - Grab reader from first sentence
  - Develop a strong thesis statement
- For each point, use adequate support
  - Prove your point with evidence
  - Use details, facts, examples, statistics
- Write a conclusion that leaves reader with a compelling thought

You may go through several drafts.

- First draft – “discovery” draft – you discover what you really want to say

Keep working . . . Revision/editing

- Second draft – work like an editor – revise for clarity; work on language and sentence structure

Keep working . . .

- Make additions if necessary to communicate effectively
  - Have you said what you want to say?
  - Have you met the requirements of the assignment?
- Proofread
  - Read paper from beginning to end
  - Check for grammar, spelling, and typographical errors
    (Note that computer spelling and grammar programs are helpful but not perfect!)

Checklist

- Introduction creates interest
- Audience and purpose are clearly defined
- Thesis sets up the main idea of the paper
- Body paragraphs express the points I want to make
- Strong topic sentences set up each paragraph
- Ideas are developed using vivid details or facts, depending on the type of essay I am writing
- Conclusion wraps up, restates the thesis, and leaves reader with a compelling thought
- If my essay requires documentation, I have followed appropriate style (MLA, APA, etc.)