

The Writing Process

- All college students know how to write
- But they don't know **HOW** they write
- Very few of us have ever thought about what we do when we write
- The writing process explains **what** we do and helps us understand **why** we do it that way

The Writing Process

- **Every** writer uses the writing process **every** time they write an extended work
- Successful writers use this subconsciously
- We bring it to the surface to allow the writer to understand and better control it

The Writing Process

- The Writing Process consists of 5 stages
 - Invention
 - Organization
 - Drafting
 - Revision
 - Editing
- Circular process – often revisit stages

Invention

- Often makes the difference between adequate and good/great
- Author needs to know **WHAT** they are going to write about and have **SOMETHING** to say
- Thesis - Audience - Purpose

Organization

- Organization is planning, not just outlining
- Where are the natural idea breaks?
- What does audience expect to see?
- Are there format requirements?
- Authors who know where they are going can write more **effectively**

Drafting

- The actual physical act of writing or typing
- Once you know **what** you want to say, and **how** you want to say it, writing is **easier**
- This version/draft doesn't have to be perfect – you **WILL** revise

Revision

- Revision is about the BIG picture
- Re-vision = rethink + rewrite
- Did your ideas and phrasing WORK?
- Concerned with audience, thesis, purpose, focus, and organization – nothing below paragraph level

Editing

- This is the lower level elements – sentence level and below
- Spelling, punctuation, verbs, word choice, sentence construction, etc.
- Most people have only a few weak editing areas
- Last thing to do – detailing to make it shine

The Writing Process

- We will work our way through the writing process step by step on the first essay
- Approximately one step per week
- Later essays will give you more practice with the writing process
- You are expected to use it on all essays