Writing Process Workshop: Brainstorming, Structuring & Editing
Objective:

Students will be able to: demonstrate an understanding of the academic writing process; they will apply brainstorming methods, as well as identify structuring, and editing techniques in order to develop their writing skills.
What is the Writing Process?

Academic writing requires interpretation of information and the development of an original opinion, which must be supported.

Stages of the Writing Process include:

Prewriting/Brainstorming

Drafting/Structuring/Organizing

Editing/Revising
Before You Begin...

Do you understand the assignment?
- Read and underline directions.
- Identify the correlation between assignments.
- Seek clarification from Professor.

Create a time management schedule
- Book weekly appointments in the Writing Center.
7 Steps to Follow

1. Establish Topic & Purpose
2. Brainstorm
3. Outline
   - Introduction
   - Body paragraphs
   - Conclusion
4. Create first draft
5. Peer edit/WC feedback
6. Revise
7. Proofread final draft
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Topic, Purpose & Thesis

Academic papers must have a purpose or a main argument that relates to a topic. This central message is delivered in the form of a thesis.

A thesis is a single sentence in your introduction that presents your argument to the reader.

A thesis guides the direction of your paper; subsequent paragraphs, or the body of your paper, must provide evidence to support your thesis.

When drafting a thesis, consider the audience. Only include relevant information in your paper that relates to the thesis and audience.

Example

TOPIC: news coverage of military action
Inadequate Thesis:
News coverage of military actions undermines our seriousness.
Acceptable Thesis:
By featuring highlights of air strikes and peace-keeping missions on the news, television producers reduce them to the status of popular entertainment and undermine the audience’s appreciation of the seriousness of military actions.

*Note: A thesis may need to be revised several times before it becomes acceptable.
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Acceptable Thesis:

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*Note: A thesis may need to be revised several times throughout the writing process to ensure that paragraphs and ideas are connected properly.
Brainstorming

Brainstorming is a way to figure out what you know, as well as determine what questions you still have, on a particular topic.

Methods

Freewriting

Asking Questions

Listing/Bulleting

Clustering/Mapping
Outline
Introduction

Hook and relevant background information

Present topic/subject of the paper

Clear statement of thesis/purpose of paper
Outline

Body Paragraphs

Determine the number of paragraphs based on the main points from your brainstorm.

Identify the main idea of each paragraph as well as 2-3 sub points to support each main idea.

Determine logical order of paragraphs

Utilize paragraph model example
Paragraph Model

Topic Sentence (Main Idea)

Supporting details and examples (with transition words/ phrases)

Concluding Sentence
Outline Conclusion

Restate thesis in a new way

Provide brief summary of main points

Offer prediction/opinion or recommendation
Editing & Revising

Have fellow student or WC coach read paper and provide feedback

Review for Clarity & Coherence

See: Peer Editing and Proofreading Checklists
References


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