

My Personal Writing Process

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Authors Note

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Mechanical Procedures

For me, finding a special spot is half the battle when it comes writing. Because ninety-nine percent of the time, I compose using word document (and make changes) directly from my personal desktop. I have a regular workspace at home that I look forward to going to when it is time to write. With the right room temperature, my comfortable high back chair, the lighting, my library (research material), and a special family photo, I have everything set just the way I like it. The family photo enlightens me when I need to stop for a moment and get back on track. The other half of the battle is being in the right mood to write because there are times when I'm just "not feeling it." I like complete silence when I write. Therefore, I prefer early mornings when I am refreshed. A hot cup of coffee helps to!

Mental Procedures

There are times when I like writing but there are also times when I do not. Either way I have found that it is more beneficial to prepare for my writing assignments than wait until the last minute. In fact, the lengthier the paper, the more preparation is needed. When I was younger and with kids in the home, I often found myself procrastinating or waiting until the last minute to complete an assignment because I had so many other duties. But now that I am an "empty nester" I have gotten better at planning out what and when I will write.

I mostly like to inspire (or motive) when I write. I first choose my topic. It saves time for me if I have a list of topics to choose (from the Instructor). I then consider the basic outline format—which is the introduction, body, and conclusion. I like Proverb 16:3 says "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." I have learned to acknowledge the Lord in everything so that He can keep me focused and on task. Otherwise, I would be anxious or stressed about what to write.

My Strengths and Weaknesses

I think that one of my weaknesses is being grammatically correct (putting subjects, verbs, etc. in the right place). Another is writing a poorly formatted thesis. I am paranoid about that! Also, working from home can be a weakness if I do not minimize distractions around me. For instance, the TV, cell phone, kitchen (food), and my spouse are all distractions and can keep me from producing a timely paper. I would take all day on a paper if I allowed these distractions to be a hindrance. Therefore, muting my phone, closing the door to my office, staying away from the kitchen (until the set break time) keeps me focused. That is why I have disciplined myself to start early in the morning when it is quiet.

My strengths have included spelling, fluent sentences that are easy to understand, organization or structure and unity of the content. Another strength has been research data (when required). Overall, I think that I have the basic concept of writing but could use some help or motivation in using different words (broader vocabulary). I sometimes write the way I talk! I want to improve on everything about my writing style.