



College Writing 101

An Introduction to the Writing
Process

Class Outline

I.) Attendance

II.) Review Syllabi & Student
Interactive Exercise

IV. Overview of Writing
Assistance/Where Can I get help?

V). Lecture: The Writing Process

VI). Conclusion

The Writing Process

Getting TO Know You...

1. State your name, intended major and where you are from.
2. How did you come to be at RCC?
3. What *Kind* of writer are you? How would you characterize your writing style?

The Writing Process

Getting TO Know You...

4. How would you describe your reading life?
5. What was the last book you read? Was it out of duty, or simply for pleasure?
6. What do you hope to gain from this class?

The Writing Process

The four steps of writing in a nutshell

1. Discover a clearly stated point or thesis.
2. Provide logical detailed support for your thesis.
3. Organize and connect your supporting material.
4. Revise and edit so that your sentences are effective and error free.

The Writing Process

Point and Support

- *What is an important difference between writing and talking?*
- *Point and Support in a paragraph.*
- *Point and Support in an essay.*

The Writing Process

What are the benefits of writing a traditional essay?

1. Mastering the traditional essay will help make you a better writer
2. The discipline of writing an essay will strengthen your skills as a reader and a listener
3. It will make you a better speaker, you will be more prepared to develop the three basic parts of an effective speech:

The Writing Process

1. An appealing introduction
2. A solidly developed body
3. A well rounded Conclusion

4. Most importantly, it will make you a stronger Thinker.

How? Writing a solidly reasoned essay requires mental discipline and close attention to a set of logical rules.

The Writing Process

Writing as a Skill

- Writing should be viewed as a skill, not a natural talent.
- It is not an automatic process, which means that becoming a good writer takes plain hard work, and is a product of the process of writing.

The Writing Process

Writing as a Process of Discovery

- Writing is seldom an easy, one step journey in which a finished paper comes out in a first draft.
- *Writing is a process of discovery - almost like a buried treasure hunt =).*
- It involves a series of steps no matter the order that you, individually may choose to do them.

The Writing Process

Very often, Writers do not discover what it is they want to write about until they explore their thoughts in writing. **That means that you may very well discover the direction and shape of your paper during the process of writing.**

The Writing Process



What history do we bring to writing?

- Comprehension
- Reading ability and level

Strategies for Reading

To understand your reading assignment (fiction and or non fiction), consider using the following strategies:

- Read the biographical sketch of each author thoroughly
- Read each work actively by making marginal notes, underlining important ideas, and writing your first impressions
- Find the meaning of words you do not understand
- Determine what is happening, where it is occurring, and who is involved

Strategies for Reading

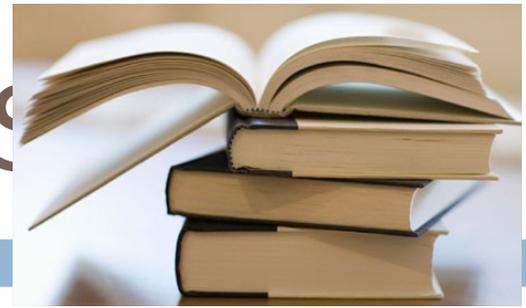
Look for the **main point** of the reading.

Consider, **why** was this written?

- What is the main point that the author is trying to make?
- Does he or she list concepts, reasons and furnish a final thought after they are discussing?



Reading Does Not S



How Can I become a better writer?

- The most effective way to become a better writer is to read (8)
- Holding on to the belief that “reading sucks” will only hold you back

Reading Does Not S



How Can I become a better writer?

-Reading cultivates intellect

- “It trains you to organize and expand your thoughts, to give precise expression to sophisticated ideas, to develop your capacity for logical reasoning, and to appreciate alternative perspectives” (9)
- Skimming (through stories) will only deprive you of the **power** of reading

The Golden Rule: Clarity



- Clarity is more than choosing words the reader understands; it leads the reader through your entire thought process with precise language and compelling evidence (13)
- **Clear expression requires precise word choice:** you must choose your words carefully to convey precisely what you intend

The Golden Rule: Clarity



- **Clear expression is sophisticated; dense or “fancy” language is not:** avoid using a thesaurus to replace familiar terms with more grandiose ones
- **Clear expression is learned through trial-and-error:** no one actually completely masters clear expressions because many concepts (love, happiness, goodness, etc.) are sometimes inexpressible in human language

Feed Curiosity, Don't "Fill Pages"

- Fretting about “filling pages” as opposed to considering what you really want to say about the text will continue to make the writing process “difficult, tedious, and unrewarding” (15)
- “Without curiosity and conviction, your ideas will be weak and prone to wander off topic, causing the structure and organization of your writing to suffer”
- If you don't care about what you can contribute to the discussion, writing will **never** feel natural or enjoyable

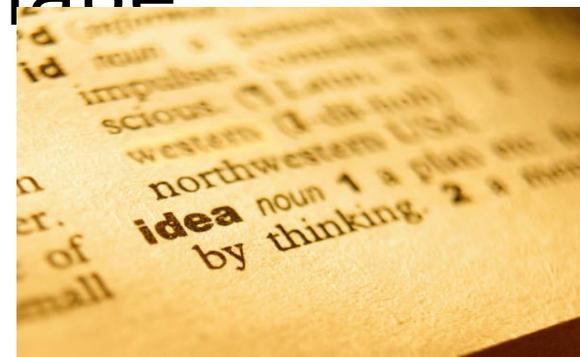
Feed Curiosity, Don't "Fill Pages"

- Your thoughts and your voice matter
- It takes work to build and nurture sincere interest
- "Interest only arises after a text or topic has been carefully and diligently explored—partly through close reading, partly through responsible research "



Feed Curiosity, Don't "Fill Pages"

- Trust your curiosity, because it will lead you to topics you actually want to explore further
- Meet with your professor to discuss your ideas, they can help your ideas take shape



ENG 101

- Conclusion Of Introduction to the Writing Process...
- Next Lecture: Writing and Reading in Academic Contexts and Rhetorical Situations