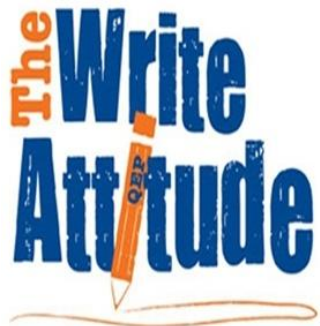


The Writing Process



Today, we'll practice several methods of the writing process and learn how to find credible sources.



Writing Challenges

When you sit down to write, what happens?

- Your mind goes blank?
- You have no clue where to start?
- Have trouble organizing your thoughts?
- Other?



Pre-Writing

- Prewriting is the first stage of the writing process.
- It's the point at which we discover and explore our initial ideas about a subject.
- It helps us to get our ideas on paper, though not usually in an organized form.
- It gets the wheels rolling.

PRE-WRITING TOOLS

Tools for pre-writing include, but are not limited to:

- Freewriting
- Brainstorming
- Researching
- Outlining
- Clustering
- Journalistic Approach

Freewriting

- Freewriting is jotting down all of the ideas you have on a topic before you read about it or do research.
 - Don't worry about spelling or grammar.
 - Write everything that comes to mind—even if it doesn't necessarily make sense yet.
- ☐ PRACTICE: Freewrite for three minutes on either a topic of a paper that you have to do for class or on the topic of increasing minimum wage.



Brainstorming

- Much like freewriting, brainstorming involves capturing all of the thoughts, ideas, and fragments in your head.
- Often, brainstorming looks more like a list while freewriting may look more like a paragraph.
- With either strategy, your goal is to get as many ideas down on paper as you can.



Seven Steps of Researching

1. Identify and Develop Your Topic
2. Find the Context: Background Information on Your Topic
3. Find Books
4. Find Periodical Articles
5. Find Video and Sound Recordings
6. Evaluate What You Find
7. Cite What You Find

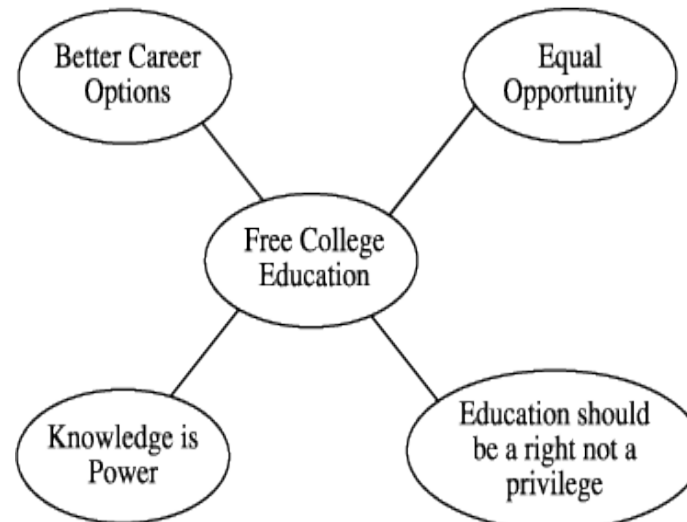
Outlining

1. Determine the purpose of your paper.
2. Determine the audience you are writing for.
3. Develop the thesis of your paper.
4. List all the ideas that you want to include in your paper.
5. Group related ideas together.
6. Arrange material in subsections from general to specific or from abstract to concrete.
7. Create main and sub headings.

- I. Main Topic 1
 - A. Subtopic 1
 - B. Subtopic 2
 - 1) Detail 1
 - 2) Detail 2
 - a. Sub Detail 1
- II. Main Topic 2

Clustering

- Start with a circle in the middle that contains your main idea.
- Then draw lines to other, smaller circles that contain sub-ideas or issues related to the main idea.
- Try to group like ideas together so as to organize yourself.



Journalistic Approach

- Journalists have six important questions they need to answer about any story they report: who, what, when, where, why, and how.
 - By answering these questions, journalists can be certain that they have provided the most important information to their readers.
- **Who** is involved in the conflict?
 - **What** is the main issue? What are other issues involved?
 - **When** did the conflict begin, and how has it developed over time?
 - **Where** does the conflict seem most heated or violent?
 - **Why** have those living in this area found it so difficult to resolve the situation?
 - **How** might this conflict be resolved?



Session II



Finding Credible Sources