

Understanding the Writing Process

When you look at a book, you do not see the process the writer used to make it. What you see in print might not be much like the first plan for the book. The author might have rewritten many times.

The writing process is often divided into five stages. Most writers go back and forth through these stages. There is no one correct way to write.

Prewriting

In this stage, you plan what you are going to write. You choose a topic, identify your audience and purpose, brainstorm ideas, and organize information.

Revising

This stage is the first part of editing your writing. You may work by yourself or with a partner or a group. Make changes that will improve your writing.

Publishing

Finally, you choose a way to present your work to an audience. You may want to add pictures, make a class book, or read your work aloud.

Drafting

In this stage, you write your ideas in sentences and paragraphs. Follow your prewriting plan to write a first draft of your composition.

Proofreading

In this stage, you finish your editing by polishing your work. Check for errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Make a final copy of your composition.

