



Introductions

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- Slight changes to the syllabus
- Small changes to the schedule
- Engrade has been set-up; get your code
- No quiz tonight on the reading
- Quiz next week on assigned topic

Essays...

- Origins/ the “I”
- Voice and Audience
- Universal Structure and Basic Requirements
 - Five Paragraphs (or more)
 - Introduction, Body of Support, Conclusion
 - Thesis Statement (main point)
 - “Circular” Pattern---all comes back to the start
- Process Writing (never just one draft)



Stages of the Writing Process

- There are several stages to the Writing Process.
- *Each stage is essential.*
 - Prewriting
 - Writing (Drafting)
 - Revising
 - Editing

I. Prewriting

- Choose/narrow your topic
- Determine your
 - Audience
 - Purpose
 - Tone
 - Point-of-view
 - Tense
- Explore your topic
- Make a plan

Choose/Narrow Your Topic

- Your topic should pass the 3-question test:
 1. Does it interest me?
 2. Do I have something to say about it?
 3. Is it specific?

Determine Your Audience

- Your Audience is composed of those who will read your writing.
- Ask yourself:
 - Who are my readers?
 - What do my readers know about my topic?
 - What do my readers need to know about my topic?
 - How do my readers feel about my topic?

**I am not your audience!

Audience continued. . .

- What do my readers expect?
 - Standard Written English
 - Correct grammar and spelling
 - Accurate information
 - Logical presentation of ideas
 - Followed directions of the assignment!!!
 - What are my length requirements?
 - What is my time limit?
 - What does the assignment consist of?
 - Is research required?
 - What format should be used?

Determine Your Purpose

- Purpose is the reason you are writing.
- Whenever you write, you *always have a purpose*. Most writing fits into one of 3 categories:
 - Expressive Writing
 - Informative Writing
 - Persuasive Writing
- More than one of these may be used, but one will be primary.

Determine Tone

Tone is the mood or attitude you adopt as you write.

- Serious, humorous?
- Intimate or detached?

Determine Tense

- Tense is the voice you use to designate the time of the action or state of being.
 - Present tense
 - Past tense
 - Future tense

Explore Your Topic

Pre-writing Techniques:

- Brainstorming/Listing
- Freewriting
- Clustering/Mapping
- Questioning
- Discussing
- Outlining

Make a Plan

- Before you begin drafting your essay, you should make a plan (a roadmap).
 - Review, evaluate, and organize ideas written in your pre-writing; then make a plan for your essay's
 - Thesis statement
 - Support
 - Order
 - Structure

Thesis Statement

- The thesis statement expresses the MAIN IDEA of your essay, the central point that your essay develops/supports.

Thesis continued. . .

- Your thesis **SHOULD**:
 - Accurately predict your essay's direction, emphasis, and scope
 - Make no promises that the essay will not fulfill
 - Be direct and straightforward
 - **NOT** be an announcement, statement of opinion, or statement of fact.

Support

- Be sure to evaluate the information in your prewriting carefully in order to choose the best support for your topic.
 - Primary Support—major ideas or examples that back up your main points
 - Secondary Support—details which further explain your primary support

Support continued. . .

- Basics of good support
 - Relates to main point
 - Considers readers, i.e. provides enough information
 - Is detailed and specific

Order

- The Order is the sequence in which you present your ideas.
- There are 3 types of order:
 - Time (chronological) order
 - Space order
 - Emphatic order (order of importance: least-to-most, most-to-least)

Structure/Organization

- Consider how your essay will be organized; then create an Outline.
- Sample Outline of standard 5-paragraph essay:
 - A. Introduction
 - B. Body Paragraph 1
 - C. Body Paragraph 2
 - D. Body Paragraph 3
 - E. Conclusion

II. Writing

- During the Writing Stage, you should
 - Create your essay's Title
 - Compose a draft
 - A Draft is the first whole version of all your ideas put together; it's a "dress rehearsal."
 - You should plan to revise your Draft several times throughout the writing process.

Writing a Draft

- Basics of a good draft:
 - Has a fully developed introduction and conclusion
 - Has fully developed body paragraphs, each containing a topic sentence, at least two examples, and detailed support
 - Follows standard structure and uses complete sentences

Write Your Introduction

- Your introductory paragraph should do the following:
 - Be a minimum of 4-6 sentences
 - Tell the audience what to expect from your discussion (thesis)
 - Move from general to specific, with the thesis as the last sentence in the intro
 - Get the reader's attention
 - Set the tone for the rest of the essay

Introduction, continued

- Strategies for developing an Introduction include
 - Providing background information
 - Telling a personal anecdote
 - Beginning with a quotation
 - Using an opposite
 - Asking a question

Write Your Body Paragraphs

- Each body paragraph should develop one of the specific points mentioned in the thesis.
- Each BP should contain:
 - Topic Sentence—main idea of BP
 - Primary Support—examples
 - Secondary Support—details

Body Paragraphs: Topic Sentence

- A **Topic Sentence** expresses the main idea of the body paragraph.
- Begin each body paragraph with a Topic Sentence that
 - Narrows the focus of the paragraph
 - Accurately predicts the direction of the paragraph
 - Refers back to the Thesis statement

Body Paragraphs continued

- Body paragraphs must have
 - **Unity**—everything refers back to main point
 - **Support**—examples and details
 - **Coherence**—all points connect to form a whole; one point leads to another

Body Paragraphs: Unity

- **Unity** is achieved when everything refers back to the main point
 - ALL SENTENCES SHOULD RELATE BACK TO TOPIC SENTENCE & THESIS.
 - Do not include any ideas that are irrelevant or off-topic.

Body Paragraphs: Support

- **Support** is achieved through adequate examples and details.
- Each body paragraph should include at least two examples to support the main idea of the paragraph.
- Each example should include at least one specific detail that further illustrates the point.

Write Your Conclusion

- The concluding paragraph should
 - Contain a minimum of 4 sentences
 - Refer back to the main point, but not simply *repeat* the thesis
 - Make an observation on what is written
 - NOT introduce any new ideas
 - Create a sense of closure

III. Revising

- Revising is finding & correcting problems with *content*; changing the ideas in your writing to make them clearer, stronger, and more convincing.
- Revising looks at the “Big Picture”—the Idea level.

IV. Editing

- Editing is finding and correcting problems with grammar, style, word choice & usage, and punctuation.
- Editing focuses on the “Little Picture”—Word level.

Editing Tips/Peer Reviews

- Work with a clean printed copy, double-spaced to allow room to mark corrections.
- Read your essay backwards.
- Be cautious of spell-check and grammar-check.
- Read your essay out loud.
- Get feedback from peers.
- Work with a tutor!

Peer-Review

- It is important to make the peer review process useful.
- Basics of useful feedback:
 - It is given in a positive way
 - It is specific
 - It offers suggestions
 - It is given both verbally and in writing

Showing vs. Telling

- **Sensory details**

- Sight
- Smell
- Touch
- Taste
- Sound

- **Creating images with words**

- **Reader access to your thoughts**

Our screened porch is a peaceful place to read and relax on a Saturday afternoon. Sitting in a creaking wooden rocker, I look through the gauzy wire screen into the back yard. From the top of a pine tree, a mockingbird scolds. In the distance, I hear the sleepy drone of a neighbor's mower. A slight breeze wafts tempting aroma of grilling hamburgers toward me.

Prudence, my calico cat, pads out to join me, stretching out in a warm patch of sun near the screen door. I scoop her warm, furry body into my arms as she rumbles her approval. She settles into my lap, content to sit with me and enjoy the peace of the back porch.