

The Writing Process

in

English Composition 101

Is this you when your professor gives you an assignment to write an essay or research paper????



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Or is this how you feel?

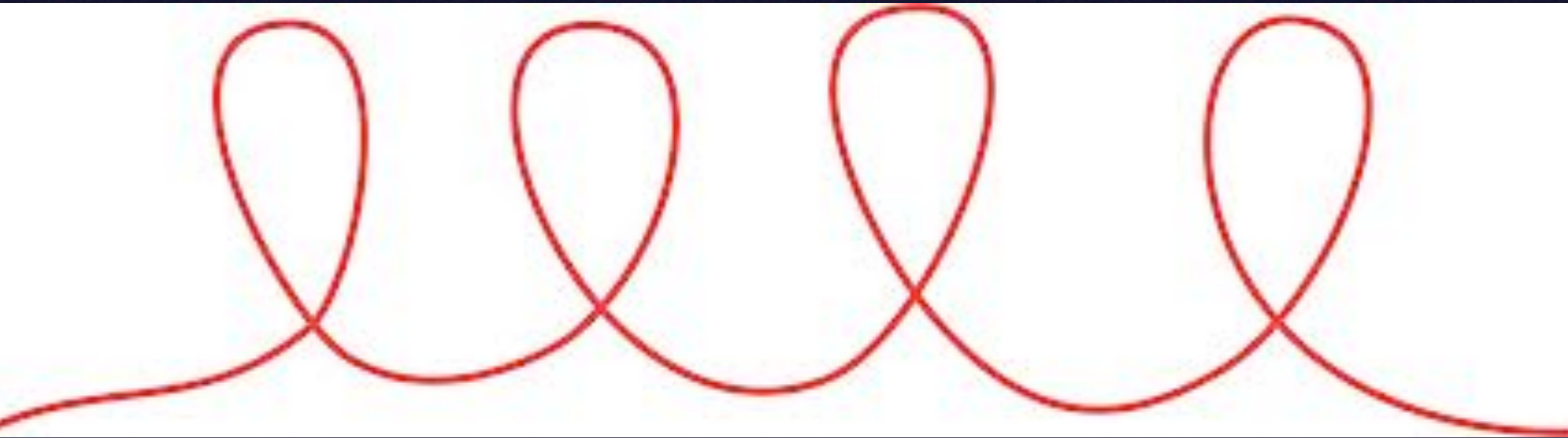


# COMPOSITION:

*“something that is created by arranging several things to form a unified whole.”*

**The Writing Process** is about  
*creativity* and arranging your ideas  
into some kind of *order* → you *create*  
something *new* and something that is  
**unified and coherent->**  
**AN ESSAY.**

It is a **RECURSIVE** process



# The Three Stages of the Writing Process

- **STAGE ONE:** GENERATING IDEAS
- I. **STAGE TWO:** DEFINING THE **CENTRAL IDEA (THESIS)** + DEVELOPING AND ORGANIZING **SUPPORT** FOR THIS IDEA
- II. **STAGE THREE:** DRAFTING, REVISING, EDITING, AND PROOFREADING

# Stage One:

## GENERATING IDEAS

- Brainstorming ideas
- Freewriting
- Listing
- Clustering
- Asking questions (What? Who? Where? How? Why?)



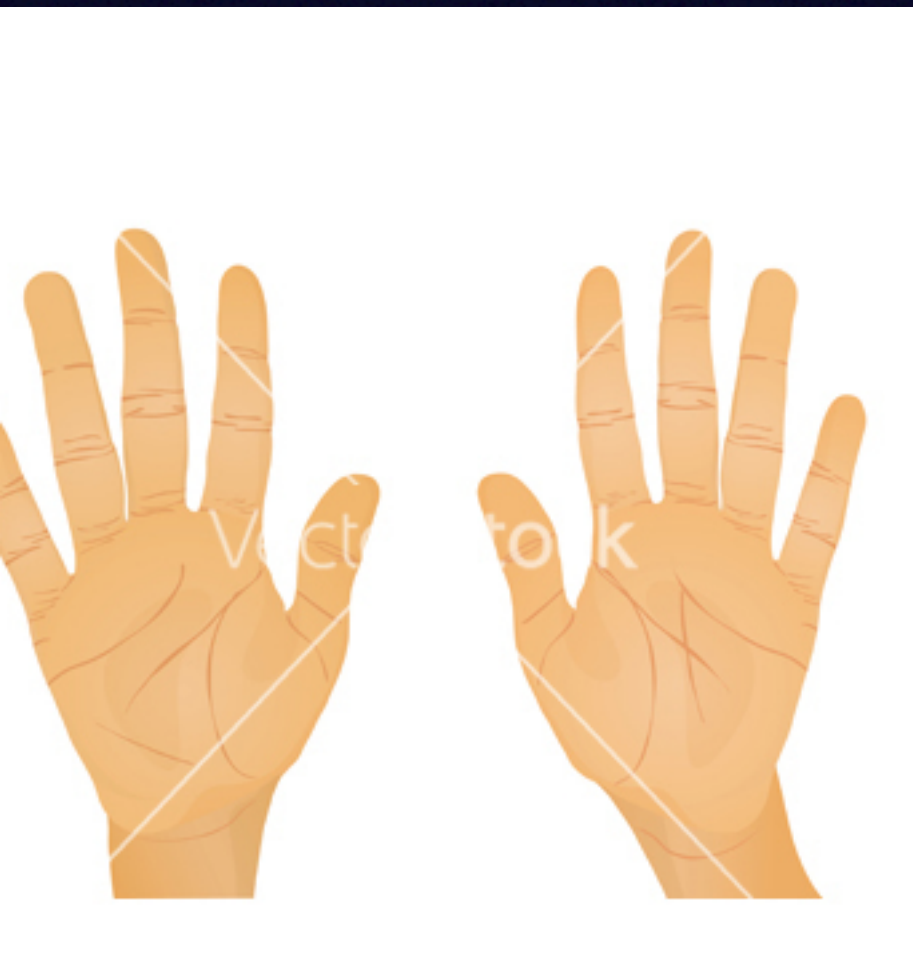
# Stage Two:

## THESIS AND OUTLINE

Use your “Xray” vision to look for **the bones (the underlying structure and logic)** hiding in the your freewriting, clustering, or list of ideas.

**Look for your position (thesis) & reasons and evidence to support it.**

Stage 2: Focus on the “bones” -- the underlying structure and logic -- in your brainstorming.



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# The Work of Stage Two:

1. Define and state the central idea in the **Thesis Statement**
2. Support the central idea in the **Essay Outline**

# Finding your thesis

- Your thesis is the **central idea** of your essay.
- It should be a **claim** or a **position** on a topic that people disagree about.  
**Example: We disagree about what makes people happy. Is it money, love, power, children, work?**
- You take a **position** on this topic and state it in your **thesis**.

# Finding your thesis

- State your topic as a question. We will call this the **BIG QUESTION** for each of your essays.
- Answer the question: this is your **position**.
- **Narrow** the thesis: make it **specific**.
- **Qualify** the thesis: use words like *may, very likely, often, could*, etc.

# Arrange your ideas in an outline

- Use the **BASIC ESSAY OUTLINE** to help you arrange your ideas as an essay.
- In each **BODY PARAGRAPH**, support the **THESIS** with a supporting **REASON**.
- Use **EVIDENCE** from the article (usually quotations) to explain, illustrate, or prove the reason.
- Sometimes you can use your own experience as another form of evidence.

# Stage Three:

## The Writing Stage

- After you compose a **thesis** and an **outline** -- **the underlying structure of your essay** -- write the first **draft** your essay
- Elaborate, explain, use quotations and paraphrases to support and illustrate your points, make connections: **This is writing an essay.**
- The last stage of writing also involves looking over your work several times to **revise, proofread, and edit**

# Stage Three: *The Writing Stage*

- The first draft: use your brainstorming and outline to **write your first draft** without stopping to fix grammar.
- Rough drafts: **REVISE** (“**vise**” means to look at something; “**re**” means to do it again) the first draft for **organization, content, logic, and clarity.**
- The final draft: **EDIT & PROOFREAD -- correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc.**



# *The Little Seagull*

W-3d-W3f

- For each of your essays, you will use the guidelines in these sections of *The Little Seagull* to **revise, edit, and proofread** your essay.

# The Final Product

- Work through **all three stages** of the **WRITING PROCESS** for each of your essays.
- **STAGE ONE:** Choose the technique that works for you.
- **STAGE TWO:** An **OUTLINE** for all the paragraphs in the essay is always required.
- **STAGE THREE:** write the **first draft** and at least one more draft. Then write the **FINAL DRAFT. PRINT ALL OF YOUR DRAFTS.**
- **STAPLE all three stages of the writing process** together in chronological order with **THE FINAL DRAFT ON TOP.**