

The writing process

me trying to "trust the process"



I. Overview

- ① **Prewriting:** Generate ideas to write about and begin developing those ideas.
- ② **Outlining:** Determine the overall organizational structure of the writing and create an outline to organize ideas.
- ③ **Writing a rough draft:** Use the work completed in prewriting to develop a first draft. Follow the organizational plan from the outline.

I. Overview

- ④ **Revising:** Revisit the draft to review and, if necessary, reshape its content. This stage involves moderate and sometimes major changes: adding or deleting a paragraph, phrasing the main point differently, expanding on an important idea, reorganizing content, and so forth.

- ⑤ **Editing:** Review the draft to make additional changes. Editing involves making changes to improve style and adherence to standard writing conventions including adding sentence variety, making statements more precise, and fixing errors in grammar and spelling.

II. Implementing the process

- Good writers use some variation of this process.
- Even if the task is straightforward and you feel ready to start writing, take some time to develop ideas before you plunge into your draft.
- Take advantage of moments of inspiration. However, understand that sometimes you will have to write when you are not in the mood. Sit down and start your draft even if you do not feel like it.

II. Implementing the process

- I will provide feedback and answer questions at certain stages. However, it is still your job to transform your work into a final, polished piece.
- Even talented writers still need to revise and edit their work.
- Manage your time wisely. Do not try to move from step 1 to step 5 in one evening. You will plan better, think better, and write better if you space out the steps. Long-term projects, such as research papers, require more time for each step.
- For shorter assignments, where the time available to work is limited, apply a modified version of the writing process.

III. Thesis statements

- For any piece of writing, you must focus on a central idea.
- A **thesis statement** tells the reader the point you want to make in your essay, while the essay itself supports that point. Thesis statements should be:
 - **Specific:** It must concentrate on a specific area of a general topic.
 - **Arguable:** It conveys a point of view, rather than a factual statement.
 - **Demonstrated:** It can be supported with reasoning, evidence, and examples.

III. Thesis statements

- **Weak thesis statement:** Gender representation is an important aspect of heavy metal music culture.
 - *A thesis is weak when the statement is too broad or when it is simply a declaration of your topic.*
- **Weak thesis statement:** Women are underrepresented among heavy metal musicians.
 - *A thesis is weak when it is an obvious fact or something that no one can disagree with.*
- **Weak thesis statement:** Women are less likely to become metal musicians due to biological reasons.
 - *A thesis is weak when there is little or no evidence to support it.*

III. Thesis statements

- **Strong thesis:** There are fewer women in metal bands because women are discouraged from acquiring the technical skills necessary to become accomplished metal musicians.
- **Strong thesis:** The underrepresentation of women as metal musicians stems from toxic culture and the scarcity of female role models in the genre.
- **Strong thesis:** Women are more likely to participate in heavy metal culture as journalists and scholars, rather than as musicians because it offers a less risky path toward success.