

The Writing Process

Sometimes, writers can't come up with ideas or don't know where to start. It is important to understand that writing is a process where each step adds to the entire finished product. Writing is rarely perfect the first time, so writers should view the process as a set of layers that are added on top of one another until the desired result is achieved.

The **Student Learning Centre (SLC)** at Ontario Tech University provides students with the opportunity to work one-on-one with a Writing Specialist or Peer Writing Tutor to improve their skills in each step of the writing process.

Steps in the Writing Process	The Student Learning Centre can help you
<p>1. Explore and Get Ideas</p> <p>Brainstorm Think Research Recall Discuss Read React</p> <p>The first step of the writing process involves collecting information through your own ideas as well as research. It involves thinking a great deal about your topic and perhaps discussing those ideas with others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate themes, topics, and sources• Discuss interesting ideas• Listen and share ideas• Develop a research question
<p>2. Organize Ideas</p> <p>Focus Structure Distance Yourself Frame Design</p> <p>Planning effectively can help you structure your ideas and develop a main thesis or purpose statement. It requires preliminary thinking about the written assignment as well as formal planning of ideas into a structured outline.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create an outline• Decide which information may be useful or relevant• Identify how ideas relate to each other
<p>3. Write</p> <p>Discover Inform Critique Analyze Argue</p> <p>The next step in the process is to develop your ideas through several drafts of your assignment. For example, the first draft should be a record of your ideas. The second draft can incorporate the research you use to support your main points. Finally, the third draft can ensure that the paragraph structure is correct and that your sources and own ideas blend well into each paragraph and the overall written work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write a thesis statement• Support your ideas• Integrate your ideas and research into your paper• Work on paragraph structure• Paraphrase and summarize research• Relate evidence to topic sentences

4. Revise and Edit

Adapt Condense Proofread Reuse
Correct Edit Refine Add ideas

This step focuses on the specific details in grammar, style, voice, consistency, formatting, and clarity in a piece of writing. Make sure that the words and phrases you use clearly express your intended meaning. The wrong word, too many words, and vague generalities will all undermine the overall impact of your writing.

- Edit your own writing to make it smooth, clear and easy to read and understand
- Revise your language and improve cohesion
- Document supporting evidence
- Revise your introduction and conclusion
- Identify and correct grammar errors

Student Learning Centre

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