

## THE COMPOSING PROCESS

In composition, there is a process for composing which is encouraged, since it helps composer to account for the various stages of developing a text through to an end product. We simply call this process, The Composing Process (sometimes, called The Writing Process).

This process is comprised of main steps (prewriting, writing, and rewriting) and a series of various subsequent steps (thinking/researching, revision, and submission/publishing):

### 1. Pre-Composing (a.k.a. Prewriting)

- acquiring the assignment
- acquiring the topic/subject matter
- thinking about how to write the paper
- conducting preliminary research
- brainstorm/conceive of needed content
- plan the arrangement of those thoughts for the paper
- mentally and physically situating yourself for writing/drafting

### 2. Composing (a.k.a. Writing or Drafting)

- draft the paper/put all of your ideas onto paper with a basic organization
- meet the needs of the assignment/request
- prepare for revision

### 3. Re-Composing (a.k.a. Revising, Revision, or Rewriting)

- change components of the paper for clarity, consistency, coherence, and concision
- editing/proofreading (considering proper grammar, punctuation, formatting, and style)
- have another reader or reviewer or even editor/proofreader check your paper
- add, subtract, and relocate elements in the paper (words, sentences, paragraphs, sections)
- develop and prepare a final draft for submission/publication.

Oftentimes, you will hear these terms used in college courses when referring to the writing of academic papers or in reference to the process of creating products which are not necessarily writing-based products (engineering projects, scientific experiments, and so-forth).

### Analogy

Many students hate revising... Honestly, most people hate to change things that they create. Altering something that you have created seems insulting and sometimes seems like a waste of time. However, DO NOT be so selfish!

Oftentimes, when you write something (especially in college), you are not writing for yourself. You are writing for an audience.

Consider this: When a vehicle manufacturer creates a new vehicle they often start by brainstorming different ideas. Then, they implement one of those ideas, creating a basic

sketch. They create a model which is functional, and they make sure that the basic design accomplishes their basic design goals. Later, they will ask others to test drive the vehicle noting things which can be improved (e.g., to promote safety or comfort...). The designers fix the model (modifying things, revising things, and retooling different elements), and they test it again and again until they are satisfied with the eventual product. Writing is very much the same thing. You need to start with a basic process of brainstorming, creating, and eventually changing your product. Oftentimes, you really need to test your product (having a second reader/reviewer or even a third) before submitting it to your instructor/professor.

### Strategy

Note that the process of composing is something we call recursive or cyclic. You can repeat various stages in the composing process or even in repairing your paper.

EX:

Pre-Compose

Compose

Re-Compose

Submitted to the Instructor (who recommends that you resubmit). Then, you repeat the process:

Pre-Compose

Compose

Re-Compose