

The Writing Process

By ACCESS



- The first step in the writing process is called **prewriting**.

Writing is one of the most common tasks that you are asked to complete as a student; however, it can be one of the hardest if you have no idea what to write.

That's where prewriting comes in handy. **Prewriting** is the first stage in the writing process that helps you gather ideas while you are thinking about a topic or a possible topic. Your ideas can be in the form of freewriting, brainstorming, clustering, outlining, drawing, etc. Whatever method works best for you is what you should use.



- Watch how a group of writers brainstorm scenes for the [Bernie Mac Show](#) (06:10) in the Writer's Room.

- Choose one of the topics below.
 - My first day at a new school
 - The hardest thing I've ever done
 - My worst vacation
 - A typical evening at home
 - An encounter with a bully
 - An embarrassing moment
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- Spend about ten minutes brainstorming your topic.
 - Your purpose is to describe, and your audience is your peers.



- The second step in the writing process is called **drafting**.

This step in writing allows you to get your ideas from prewriting on paper.

Importance is placed on content. You should write as much as you can about the ideas you generated in your prewriting. Then you can go through a second time to see what needs to be changed or organized into a better sequence. It is not uncommon to have at least three drafts of a paper.

- **Use your brainstorming to write a draft about your topic.**

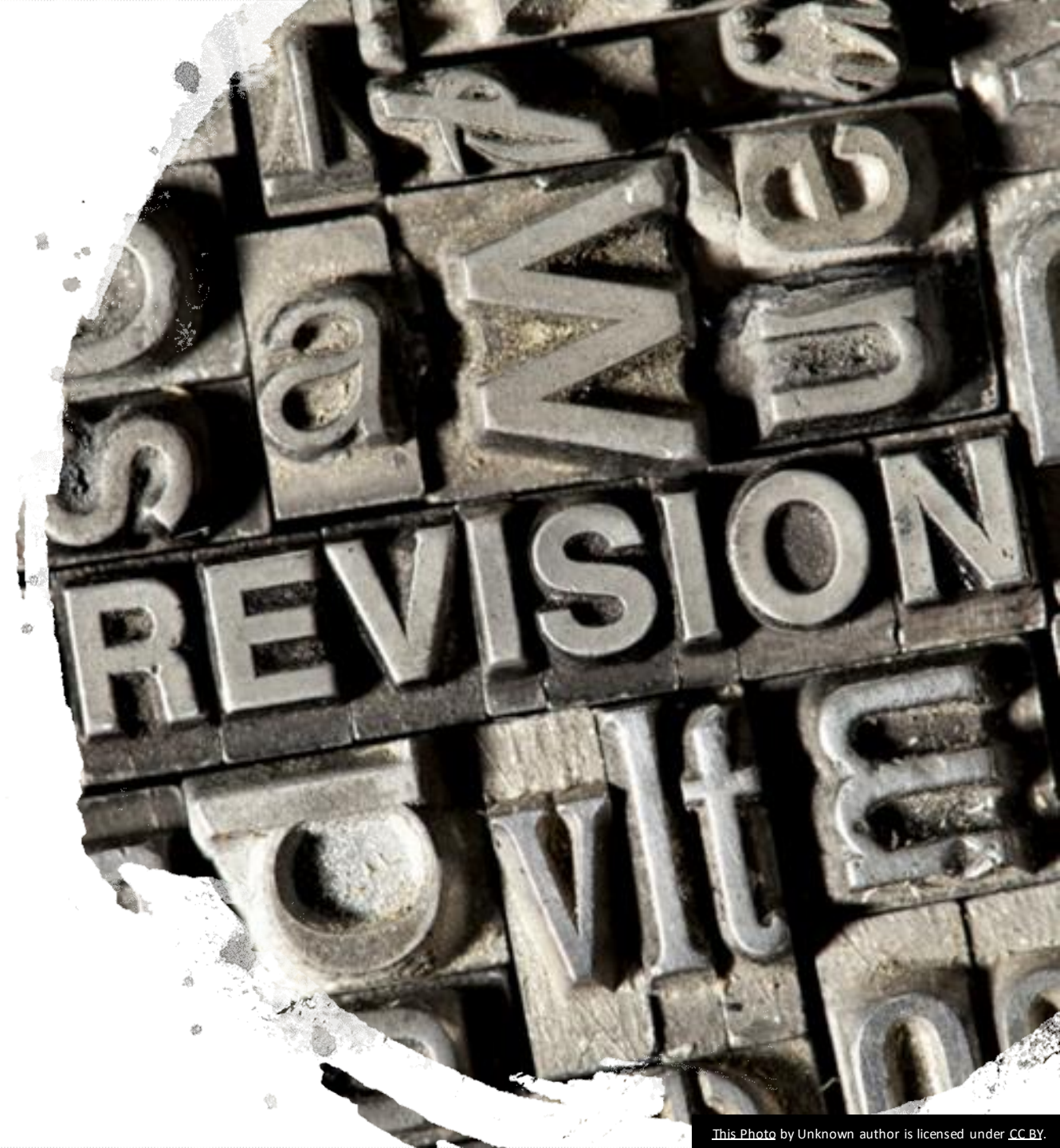


- The third step in the writing process is called **revising**.

This step in writing allows you to make necessary changes. You may need to add details, rearrange sentences, or delete ineffective information.

Think about the purpose and the audience for your paper. Make sure the paper has an introduction, body, transitions, and conclusion.

- Check the items below to see if you have included them. I have (a)...
- clear topic sentence;
- supporting sentences with transitional words;
- capitalized, punctuated, and spelled properly;
- turned fragments into complete sentences;
- eliminated unrelated sentences;
- verb tenses that agree;
- details that have logical sequence;
- conclusion or summary sentence.



- The fourth step in the writing process is called **editing**.

This step in writing is where you polish your paper.

You find and correct mistakes in spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

Spellcheck won't help you with everything, so make sure you proofread yourself. It's a wise idea to allow someone else to read your paper as well. It is very easy to miss a spelling error, a punctuation mark, or a capitalization error, especially in your own writing. Double or even triple check your final copy.





- The fifth step in the writing process is called **publishing**.

This step in writing is your final step.

You turn in your work to your teacher at this point. You may even read the piece aloud.

- [Watch how Toshi Reagon writes a song while incorporating the writing process.](#)
- Going through the writing process will help you plan and compose a well-thought out, correctly written paper.