The Writing Process

Prewriting, Thinking, Sharing, Dreaming, Imagining, Creating

Sources of ideas:

- Your life experiences
- Magazines/newspapers/periodicals/CD-ROM, radio, TV, internet
- Experiences of others in your life
- Film, Music, Visual art – observing or creating
- Dreams, Memories, Imagination
- Discussion and brainstorming
- Responding to literature and or research about any topic or person
- Role-playing
- Research and/or conducting interviews
- Reviewing personal interest inventories and class interest inventories
- Class assignments

Pre-writing options:

- Free writing or Journaling
- Image streaming (transplant yourself to another place or time and describe)
- Lists of topics or word chart
- Visualization
- Brainstorming – individually or as a group
- Talking about your writing
- Webbing/mapping/clustering and Graphic organizers
- Sketching
- Other

Drafting

Consider the following suggestions when writing drafts

- Double space and Single sided
- Number the pages if working on a large draft
- Pencil, pen, or computer is fine depending on your preference
- Be selective and creative as you decide on which prewriting ideas or concepts you will include
- Pick the best ideas that connect to your topic.
- Let the ideas flow then WRITE! WRITE! WRITE!

- Don't be concerned with counting words, or ask how long it should be; just focus on communicating everything you want to say effectively, clearly, and in a style appropriate to the requirements of the piece
- Include important content, ideas, and details.
- When you have completed your draft begin revising
- You can always come back to revisit ANY writing stage at any time

Sharing

- Read it aloud to yourself, to small groups, to large groups
- Share your draft, sort through the feedback, and make decisions about how to improve your writing
- Sharing allows you to look at your writing from different points of view
- Listen to your audience

Revising

- Use the Six Traits!
- Strive to make your writing more clear, interesting, informative and convincing
- Use The Pirate Method: ARRR (four types of changes)
    - Adding - What else does the reader need to know?
    - Rearranging - Is the information organized in logical and effective ways?
    - Removing - What extra details or unnecessary bits of information exist?
    - Replacing - What words or details could be replaced and improved?
- Read it aloud again
- Make every word and action count
- There should be reasons why characters act or speak in certain ways
- Keep the series of events logical, clear, related, and connected
- Use vivid/descriptive words used to describe characters and/or events
- Look for wordy or redundant writing and edit accordingly
- Create a catchy, clever, or compelling introduction and a conclusion that leaves the reader thinking and intrigued
- Provide strong supporting details
- Use appropriate transitional devices
- Use a proper format appropriate to the piece
- Create a vivid mental picture in the reader's mind
- Expand sentences as appropriate and necessary
- Use a thesaurus or other reference materials as needed
- It's OK to start over if the piece isn't meeting your desired intent!

Editing

Editing involves checking and correcting:
- Spelling, Capitalization, and Punctuation
- Grammar and Sentence structure
- Subject/verb agreement
- Consistent verb tense
- Word usage

When Self Editing or Peer Editing:
- Read your own work backwards; read the last sentence, then the second to last sentence, etc. Each sentence should make sense when you read it on it's own
- Every sentence needs a Subject (who or what), and Predicate (what's happening)
- Use "sentence combining" words (conjunctions) - And, but, or, yet, so, who, whom, which, that, whose, because, although, when, if, where, and others
- Check periods, exclamation marks, and commas, semi-colons and all forms of punctuation marks for appropriate use.
- Use a dictionary and / or word processing spellcheckers, but remember spellcheckers don't catch everything

Publishing

Here is a list of <u>general</u> guidelines, but depending on the intent of the piece and desired audience, there are many creative options you can use
- Blue or black ink pen or word-processed
- Choose fonts appropriate to the piece and audience
- Center title on top line with a line space that follows
- Indent and/or leave a line space for paragraphs
- Leave a line space at the bottom of the page
- Number the pages
- Include graphics, charts, photos that enhance the overall presentation
- Single sided and single-spaced in formal papers
- Visually attractive and carefully edited final copy
- Consider the audience!

D1HOCKEY.com