



The Writing Process

11 EAL Creative Writing



Six Steps to the Writing Process

- Brainstorming
- Planning
- Drafting
- Editing
- Revising
- Publishing

Brainstorming



- This means to gather thoughts and ideas.
- We have already started brainstorming by reading the stories, answering questions and looking at literary devices. Are there any ideas in these items that you can use in your own writing? Can you use similar or the same characters? Can you use their setting? Can you use their events? Can you copy their narrative structure or the way they use language?

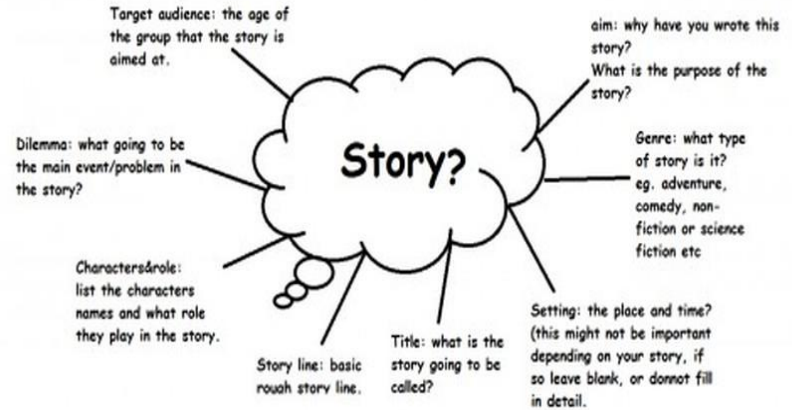
There are many ways to brainstorm, but some popular methods are using:

- Clustering
- Lists
- 5W&H

Clustering

It explores the relationships between your ideas.

- Put the subject in the center of a page. Circle or underline it.
- As you think of other ideas, write them on the page surrounding the central idea. Link the new ideas to the central circle with lines.
- As you think of ideas that relate to the new ideas, add to those in the same way.





Lists

- Jot down all the possible ideas that emerge from reading the short story you are working on. Do not worry about editing or throwing out what might not be a good idea. Simply write down as many possibilities as you can.
- Group the items that you have listed according to arrangements that make sense to you. Are things thematically related?
- Give each group a label. Now you have narrower topics with possible points of development.



5W&H

Five W's and one H: *Who?*, *What?*, *Where?*, *When?*, *Why?*, and *How?* Use these questions to explore your piece..

- **Who?:** Who are the characters? Who is affected?
- **What?:** What is the event? What is the significance of the event? What is the basic problem? What are the issues related to that problem?
- **Where?:** Where does the activity take place? Where does the problem or issue have its source? At what place is the cause or effect of the problem most visible?



5W&H continued....

- **When?:** When is the issue most apparent? (in the past? present? future?)
When did the issue or problem develop? What historical forces helped shape the problem or issue and at what point in time will the problem or issue culminate in a crisis? When is action needed to address the issue or problem?
- **Why?:** Why did the issue or problem arise? Why is it an issue or problem at all? Why did the issue or problem develop in the way that it did?
- **How?:** How is the issue or problem significant? How can it be addressed?
How does it affect the participants? How can the issue or problem be



Plan

Writing scaffolds provide you with the opportunity to plan your story/writing:

[Short story scaffold](#)

[Diary Scaffold](#)

[Creative Text Types Language and Features](#)

[Written Explanation](#)



Draft

You write out your creative piece for the first time.



Edit

- You read it over again and fix any mistakes you can see.
- You get a friend to read it and make corrections to verb tenses, spelling, punctuation, grammar, word order, prepositions and any other language mistakes.



Revise - R.I.D. method

This means to improve the quality for the writing by using better vocabulary, re-ordering ideas and adding extra detail that you may feel is necessary. You can use the **RID** method ie **R**eplace, **I**nsert, **D**elete.

Replace words, phrases and sentences with more effective ones

Insert extra words, phrases and sentences

Delete ineffective words phrases and sentences

Revise - 'Zoom In' method

Or the **Zoom-In** method can be used too.

This is when you choose a section of a story to add extra detail to it. Your teacher will tell you if there is a part of a story you can develop further by adding descriptive words, imagery or extra events.





Publish

You are now ready to type your story up using Google Docs. Consider all the advice from your teacher and friends in the class.



Resources

<https://writing.ku.edu/prewriting-strategies>