***JOURNALISTIC WRITING PROCESS***

The process includes Invention, Collection, Organization, Drafting, Revising, and Proofreading.

INVENTION "A writer keeps surprising himself he doesn't know what he is saying until he sees it on the page."

Thomas Williams When you sit down to write. Does your mind turn blank?

Are you sure you have nothing to say? If so, you're not alone! Everyone experiences this at some time or other, but some people have strategies or techniques to get them started. When you are planning to write something, try some of the following suggestions.

EXPLORE the problem - not the topic

1. Who is your reader?

2. What is your purpose?

3. Who are you, the writer? (What image or persona do you want to project?)

MAKE your goals operational

1. How can you achieve your purpose?

2. Can you make a plan? GENERATE some ideas

1. Brainstorm - Keep writing - Don't censor or evaluate - Keep returning to the problem

2. Talk to your reader - What questions would they ask? - What different kinds of readers might you have?

3. Ask yourself questions A. Journalistic questions

Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? So What?

**WHEN YOU START TO WRITE**

I. State your thesis.

II. Write an outline.

III. Write the first draft.

IV. Revise and polish. But that often doesn't work!

**Instead, you can try one or more of these strategies: Ask yourself what your purpose is for writing** about the subject. VU There are many "correct" things to write about for any subject, but you need to narrow down your choices.

For example, your topic might be "hostel food." At this point, you and your potential reader are asking the same question, "So what?" Why should you write about this, and why should anyone read it? Do you want the reader to pity you because of the intolerable food you have to eat there? Do you want to analyze large-scale institutional cooking? Do you want to compare University Hostel 1’s food to that served at Hostel 2?

**Ask yourself how you are going to achieve this purpose**. How, for example, would you achieve your purpose if you wanted to describe some movie as the best you've ever seen? Would you define for yourself a specific means of doing so? Would your comments on the movie go beyond merely telling the reader that you really liked it?

**Nutshell your whole idea** Tell it to someone in three or four sentences.

**Diagram your major points somehow.** Make a tree, outline, or whatever helps you to see a schematic representation of what you have. You may discover the need for more material in some places.

**COLLECTION**

1. Internal source of information

1. Free writing, brain storming, probing yourself PROBING YOURSELF

1. What does X mean? (Definition)

2. What are the various features of X? (Description)

3. What are the component parts of X?

(Simple Analysis) 4. How is X made or done? (Process Analysis)

5. How should X be made or done? (Directional Analysis)

6. What is the essential function of X? (Functional Analysis)

7. What are the causes of X? (Causal Analysis)

8. What are the consequences of X? (Causal Analysis

9. What are the types of X? (Classification)

10. How is X like or unlike Y? (Comparison)

11. What is the present status of X? (Comparison)

12. What is the significance of X? (Interpretation)

13. What are the facts about X? (Reportage)

14. How did X happen? (Narration)

15. What kind of person is X? (Characterization/Profile)

16. What is my personal response to X? (Reflection)

17. What is my memory of X? (Reminiscence)

18. What is the value of X? (Evaluation)

19. What are the essential major points or features of X? (Summary)

20. What case can be made for or against X? (Persuasion)

21. (Adapted from Jacqueline Berne’s Twenty Questions for the Writer)

**ORGANIZING**

After writers collect information pertaining to their topics, a useful next step is to organize it--decide where to place information in the argument, as well as which information to omit. One easy way to do this is outlining. Argumentative and narrative papers generally have three main sections. The introduction is used to grab the readers’ attention and introduce the main idea or claim, often in the form of a thesis statement. The body consists of several supporting paragraphs that help to elaborate upon the main claim. Finally, the conclusion serves to wrap up the argument and reemphasize the writer’s main ideas. After gathering information in the collection stage, the writer should think about where each piece of information belongs in the course of an argument. By taking time to organize and plan the paper, writers save time and frustration in the drafting stage; they find that they can follow the pattern they have established for themselves in their outlines.

**DRAFTING:** • Give yourself ample time to work on your project. • Find a comfortable place to do your writing. • Avoid distractions. • Take breaks.

**REVISING**: Review higher-order concerns: • Clear communication of ideas • Organization of paper • Paragraph structure • Strong introduction and conclusion