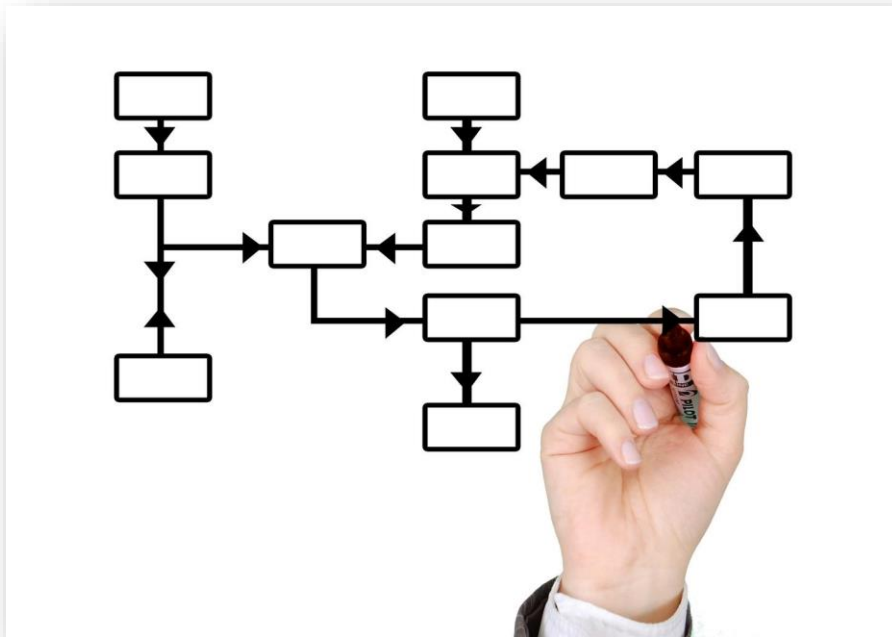


011 Composition 01 - The Writing Process

Overview

Many people see writing as something only a few people can do well—people that have some mystical talent for picking the right words for the right purpose. What we often do not understand is that people who are good at writing are good because they have spent many hours learning *the process of good writing*, using what we call **The Writing Process**.



The idea of writing as a *process* is a key to your success as a writer. Writing is a difficult, complex task that can be broken down into smaller, more manageable steps.

Think here about how a complicated piece of technology, like an iPod or Smartphone, is created. Engineers, designers, and computer programmers followed many complicated steps to make the device do exactly what they wanted it do. Perhaps the engineers started with a vague concept, building on existing technology, and asking such questions as, “What if we made a phone that could get on the Internet at high speed while the user was talking? How would we do that?” They would then try to outline the technological issues involved in creating such a device. Then they would design a prototype, build it, and test it. After many rounds of testing, they would test it again, looking for bugs and functions to improve. After testing, they would change things, making the device work better, and working out the problems. After hundreds or thousands of

prototypes and tests, the device would be finished and rolled out to consumers. Then the designers would start planning the *next* version of the device.

Producing good writing is really not that different from producing a good product. Effective practitioners of writing use a process of coming up with ideas, composing, and revising to make their writing as strong as it can be. This is the **Writing Process**. Many, many textbooks have been devoted to the Writing Process, but most agree that it has several steps. These are outlined in the diagram below. Study them carefully and commit the process to memory. You should not only understand but start applying the concepts.

The Writing Process

- Generating Ideas
- Organizing
- Drafting
- Revision
- Proofreading

Each of the steps of The Writing Process is crucial to producing a high quality piece of writing. Below is a chart explaining the basics of each step.

