

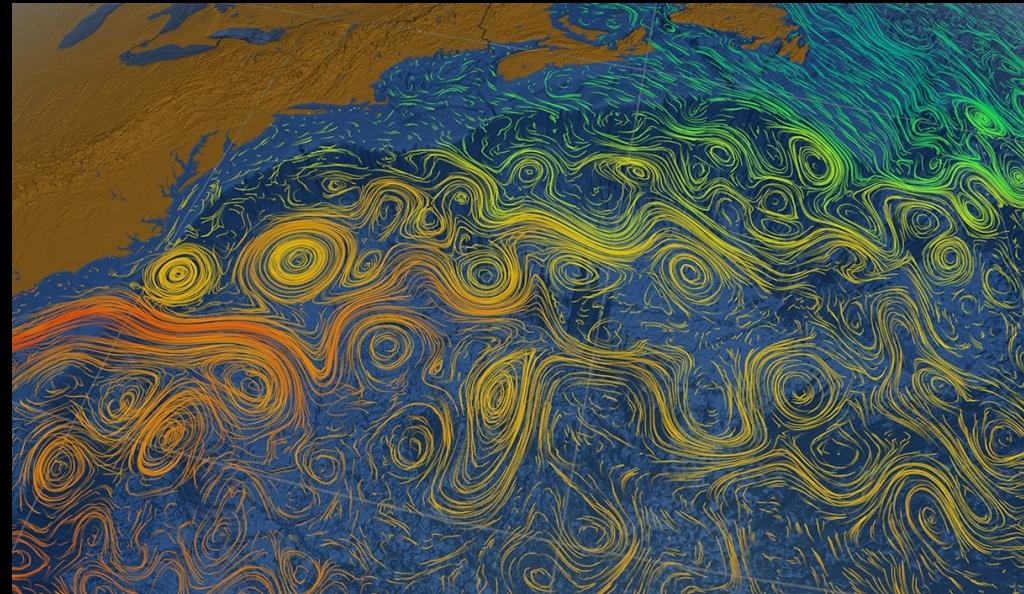
# Writing is a Process

“the big picture”

# Three Basic Stages of Writing

- Prewriting
- Writing
- Revising

... but writing is a **recursive** process.  
We usually go back and forth between stages.



# Prewriting

- Also know as “invention”
- Coming up with ideas
- Finding a focus or thesis
- Making an outline
- Developing arguments (reasoning) and finding evidence



# Writing

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- Also known as “drafting” and “arrangement”
- Getting your pre-planned thoughts down on paper
- Converting notes into a rough draft

- Note: generally speaking, don’t edit while drafting



# Revising

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- Aka the “style” stage or “polishing”
- Revise after you have written a complete draft
- Check topic sentences and paragraph coherence
- Double check grammar and spelling
- Read out loud to review style—fluidity



## Writing is a Skill

- Some people have a talent, but writing can be learned and improved just like any other type of skill: painting, dancing, basketball, web design . . .
- Writing is a system: it has structures and rules like mathematics and the sciences
- Reading vastly improves writing

# Writing to Learn

- Writing reinforces course content and develops professional skills
- Writing is a form of critical thinking
  - a way of interpreting texts, the media . . . the world
- Writing is a form of creativity and self expression
  - personal, professional, political . . .

# Writing and Critical Thinking

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- Writing is a thinking process
- Critical thinking is a way to objectively analyze any kind of “text”
- Critical thinking and writing help us to make sound judgements and decisions (individually and collectively)

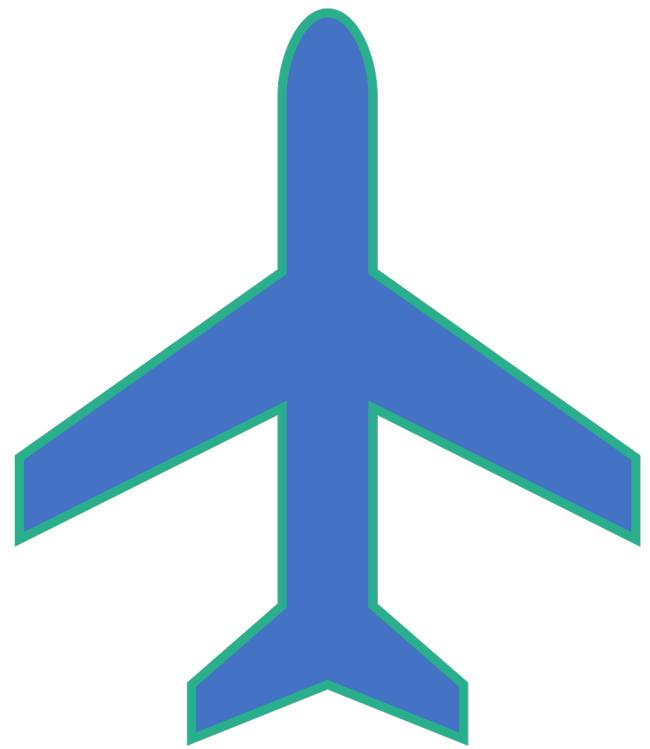


# Some Critical Thinking Terminology

- Analysis: breaking a complex subject into constituent parts
- Synthesis: understanding how things work together (in a system)
- Evaluation: assessing the value of something pragmatically, ethically, aesthetically
  - Pragmatic. Is it feasible, practical, cost-efficient . . . ?
  - Ethical: Is it morally right or wrong? Is it fair or “just”?
  - Aesthetic: Is it an elegant solution? Does it add beauty and harmony to the world?

# Effective Writing is Pragmatic, Ethical, and Aesthetic

- Pragmatic: writing helps us to accomplish our individual and collective goals (i.e. technical and business writing, journal, magazine and newspaper articles, legal documents, government documents . . . )
- Ethical: writing helps us express and reinforce values (i.e. letters to the editor, activist literature, government policies, international agreements . . . )
- Aesthetic: all forms of writing are more persuasive when they are elegantly expressed, and creative writing can have social impact (i.e. great political speeches, political novels, science fiction . . . )



The Beginning

# Image Sources

- Water currents: [https://www.whoi.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/smd\\_hyperwall\\_gulf\\_sst14.25852.jpg](https://www.whoi.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/smd_hyperwall_gulf_sst14.25852.jpg)
- Light bulb: Stock images
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- Writing and Critical Thinking: <https://talentlens.in/critical-thinking-essence-decisive-mind-works/>