

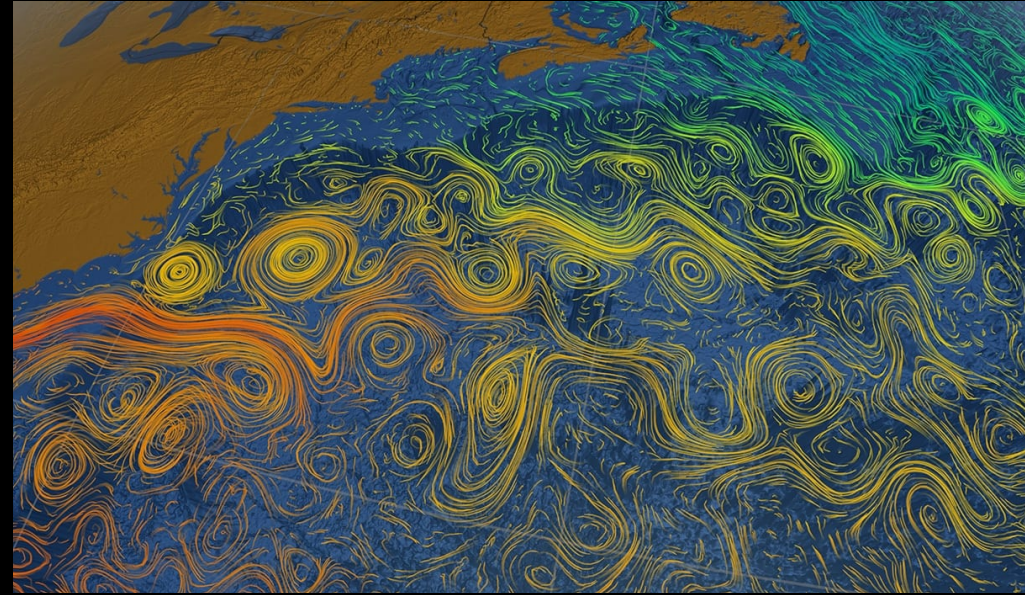


Writing is a Process

“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



A close-up, high-angle shot of a person's hands writing on a laptop keyboard with a silver pen. The laptop is open, and the screen displays a web application with various input fields and buttons. To the right of the laptop, there is a spiral-bound notebook with handwritten notes, a green highlighter, and a blue and orange pen. The scene is set on a wooden desk, and the lighting is warm and focused on the workspace.

Writing

- 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

- 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

- 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)

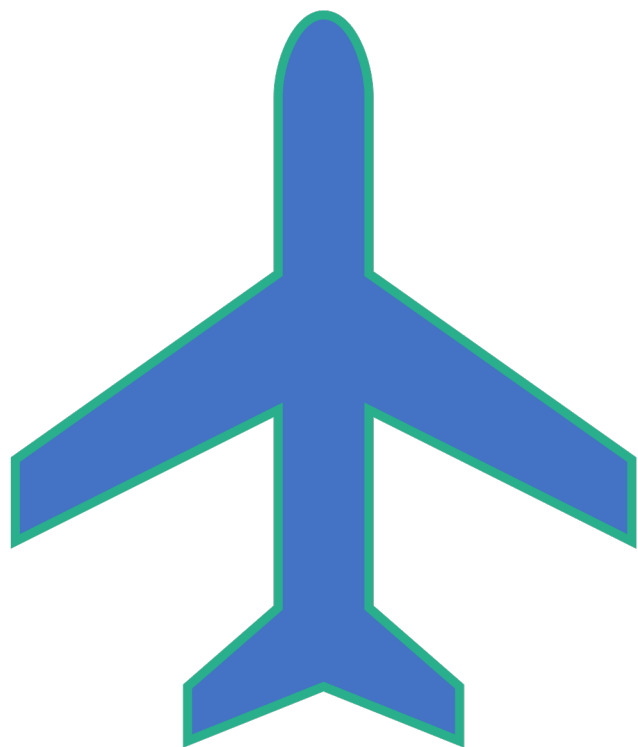


Some Critical Thinking Terminology

- 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
- Light bulb: Stock images
- Writing: <https://business.linkedin.com/talent-solutions/blog/job-descriptions/2019/4-expert-tips-for-writing-better-job-posts>
- Writing and Critical Thinking: <https://talentlens.in/critical-thinking-essence-decisive-mind-works/>