

# The Process Approach



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## STATEMENTS

YES NO

1. In writing classes, there is a strong emphasis on correct grammar.
2. In writing classes, you should focus on what the student produces at the end of the lesson.
3. Students have to work alone on writing activities.
4. Teachers should mark all the grammar mistakes that the students make.
5. Students should learn to write correct sentences and build them up into a text.

Process writing is to move away from the view that written texts are a collection of grammatically correct sentences. Process writing is connected with the different subskills that the language writers use when they write.

# Theoretical Underpinnings

## Merriwether (1997)

- Writing is a process which involves several identifiable steps.

## Nunan (1999)

- The Process approach focuses on the steps involved in creating a piece of work.

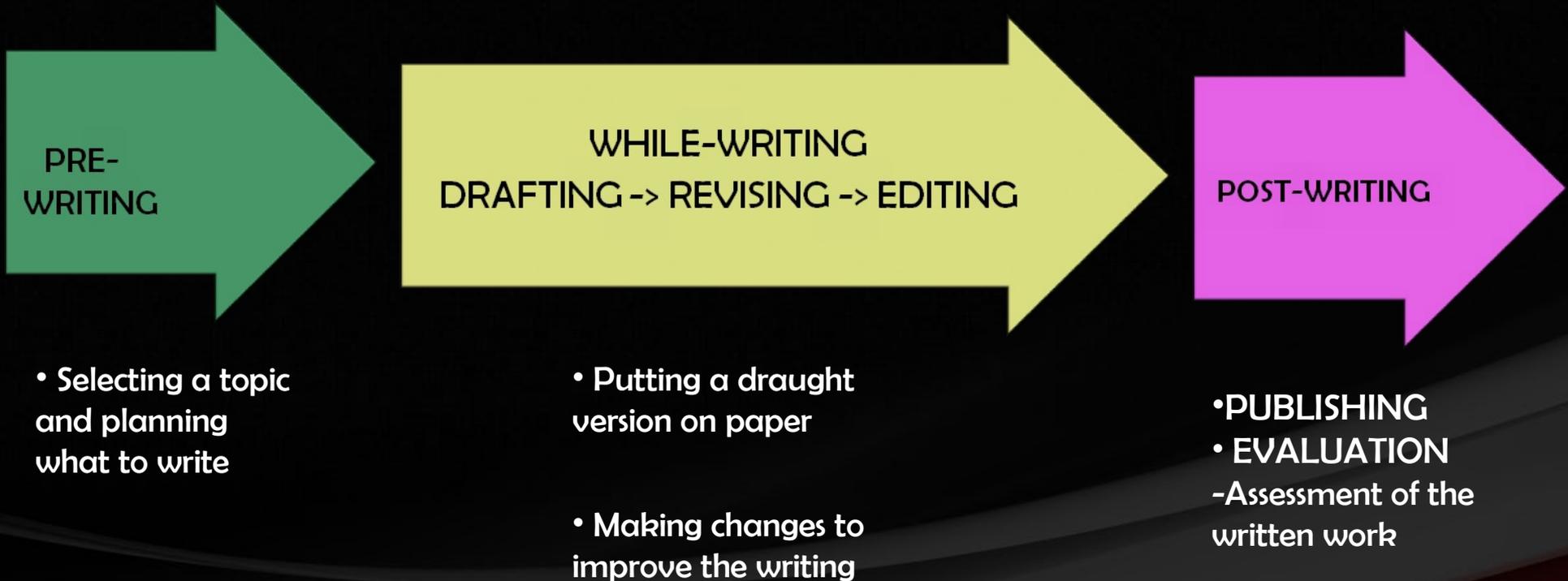
## Jordan (1997)

- Process writing evolved as reaction to the product approach.

## Process theorists of the 60's and 70's

- Writing is the result of a long, laborious, intensely personal process in which writers address several questions ranging from  
*What do I write about?*  
*Who is my audience?*  
*How do I structure my essay?*  
to *What sort of language and voice should I use?*

# STAGES IN PROCESS APPROACH





# **CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

# PRE-WRITING

- ✓ Group Brainstorming
- ✓ Group research on a writing topic
- ✓ Questioning (Journalist Questions)
- ✓ Discussion and Debate
- ✓ Cubing
  - describe it
  - compare it
  - associate it
  - analyze it
  - apply it
  - argue for or against it

✓ **Mapping / Clustering.** The preferred prewriting technique for writers who are visually oriented because it allows them to generate and organize ideas in a visual context.

✓ **Outlining.**

✓ **Pass-around topic.**

✓ **Dialogue Writing.**

✓ **Looping**

# WHILE-WRITING

- ✓ Individual writing.
- ✓ Collaborative writing. Students work together to write a previously agreed text.

# REVISING / EDITING

- ✓ Peer editing / Proof-reading.
- ✓ Self-editing.
- ✓ Conferencing.
- ✓ Reformulation.
- ✓ Whole class discussion of how a particular text might need adjustment according to the audience it is addressed to.

# POST-WRITING

## EVALUATION

- ✓ A rubric is...
  - an assessment tool
  - a scoring guide
  - (a guide for students and teachers before an assignment begins)

## PUBLISHING

- ✓ Publishing the final product and sharing it with an appropriate audience. It may be oral, visual, or written.



# ADVANTAGES

- ✓ Encourages students to communicate their own written messages.
- ✓ Communication of the message is paramount and therefore the developing, but inaccurate attempts at handwriting, spelling, and grammar are accepted. These skills are further developed in individual and small group conference interviews.



# DISADVANTAGES

- **Process writing could be time-consuming with large classes. Teachers may not have enough time to schedule individual writing conferences in large classes.**
- **Lots of grading for the teacher.**
- **Learners who are unused to process writing will view revision as a sign of failure.**

**“Good writing does not just happen. The best writers spend a great deal of time thinking, planning, rewriting, and editing.”**



**- Elizabeth West**

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