The College Writing Process

Imagine a spider web... It is everywhere! Therefore, it is a mistake to consider the writing process in a linear form as well.

You do not have to follow a specific “process”—step by step, although many steps are highly encouraged, tested, and true. The writing process involves a variety of genres, encourages creativity, and incorporates writing conventions.

1. **Invention** - Writing takes time. It’s all about brainstorming. First, give yourself plenty of time to think about your subject. When you do this, consider the assignment guidelines and what your goals are for writing. What does the prompt ask for, and how can you meet those standards?

2. **Prewriting** - This step involves considering purpose and goals for writing, using graphic organizers to connect ideas, an outline, and designing a coherent structure for a writing piece. If you have any trouble coming up with a topic, do some research first. Ask around for ideas.

3. **Drafting** - Work independently at this stage. Here you observe areas where you might be struggling. You have a general theory of what you’re composing, but you are still researching and composing your thesis statement.

4. **Revising and Editing** - Revise specific aspects of your writing to make it more coherent. Read lines aloud and ponder how you could add more details and make the paper clearer. Hear your words and how they flow. Read your own work more than once, so you know if it really conveys the ideas you want to present. Reading your work aloud to classmates and other adults will help you understand what revisions are needed.

5. **Rewriting** - Incorporate changes as you carefully write or type your final drafts. Proofread your final draft. Search for errors in your grammar that your teacher would want you to correct.

Don’t forget that this process never ends and can circle back many times throughout the process. Never lose hope. Writing isn’t hard if you have the right motivation!