

Riley Morse

Ms. Swinson

English 101

5 December 2021

My Writing Process

Writing is not that easy. For many people it may take years for them to discover what writing process works best for them. Before college I never had a specific writing process. I dedicated my time to only writing one draft. What I've come to learn here at UNCW is that the writing process is more complex and it utilizes pre-writing, peer review and revising the project.

When it comes to pre-writing, I learned to brainstorm, research, take notes, and form an outline of the project before writing the first draft. For example, for the rhetorical analysis I put down all the ideas I had into a circle map. This visual helped me to organize my ideas so I could comprehend the topic and know what to put down on the page. I followed up the brainstorm with research to get a better understanding and have more supporting evidence. Additionally, with the writing portfolio I took notes on what to include since I was not familiar with creating one.

Another useful tool that has helped me in the prewriting stage was to form an outline, which I did so for the infographic. Since I used these prewriting methods, I was able to establish a clear path for my first draft.

One of my favorite things I came to learn here in college is that it's okay to have a shitty first draft. Before reading "Shitty First Drafts", I used to put pressure on myself to write perfect drafts on the first try. This was not the case for my rhetorical analysis as my first draft was nothing like the final draft. I found it easier to make that rough draft because I knew I could always make revisions to improve the paper.

Revising papers is a crucial step in the writing process. During this step I took something that was headed to the trash to something presentable. Through peer review, I gained insight from a new perspective in order to make changes to my rough draft. After seeing what others critiqued, I knew where my paper was lacking and I could rewrite my ideas. I made global issue changes where I needed to switch paragraphs and edit the structure. I changed the wording of my sentences to improve the flow and I streamlined my paper to be more concise. I reread the prompt and made changes to make sure my paper stayed on topic. This step was pivotal, because it led to my final draft.

Following the new writing process that I've adapted in college, my final drafts have improved drastically. I realized that I have grown as a writer because I felt more confident in my final drafts. I used to not enjoy writing because I didn't have a process to follow whereas now I don't mind it because my new writing process creates better final drafts. Throughout this course I have modified the steps to completing a project by doing prewriting activities, revisions, researching, and peer review.

I am still developing as a writer and in the future my process will continue to change. The process that I have now could look different as I advance in future classes. For example, more steps may be added to complete projects such as making appointments at the UNCW writing center. This will give me more feedback before submitting the final draft. As future papers become more complex, I can build off my process that this course has helped me create.

For my future projects I will utilize my writing process by creating outlines and brainstorming. I will also do research in advance to understand my topic to see how credible the sources are. The information and ideas I gathered from prewriting help to create my full rough draft. Then the peer review is useful to get different critiques than my own, and revise from

global to local to produce a solid final draft. Overall, this semester I feel that I have grown the most as a writer because I formed a successful method for writing projects. This process could work anywhere from English to engineering, to any career where conveying information through writing is critical.