

## Writing Process Task 1

### Part I.

In the past, my writing process severely lacked rough drafts. I don't believe that I have ever written a rough draft unless required to by the guidelines of an assignment. My writing process often would include me planning out my paragraphs by writing down key information that I wanted to cover by hand, inserting quotes and references without connecting them, and simply writing incohesive phrases and information. I would then begin writing my essay or paper, referencing the quotes I had saved, and essentially develop the wording and sentence arrangement while composing my final draft. I would always go back and reread my essay, correcting grammar and adjusting the sentence order. I have removed or redone entire paragraphs before, only when I felt that the paragraph didn't convey the desired message or if it made more sense to change or remove it.

### Part II.

The excerpt "Shitty First Drafts" from the book "Bird by Bird" by Anne Lamott is a detailed explanation of Lamott's writing process, where she recounts her time as a food reviewer for California magazine. She would detail her agony in writing monthly food reviews, saying that she often would find herself unable to create the "magic," and feeling insecure about her writing abilities when she couldn't produce what she deemed as respectable writing. Lamott then went on to say that she discovered that the key to her writing was creating "shitty first drafts." (Lamott, 1) She said that by writing whatever came to her mind, spilling it out onto the page, and just allowing herself to be free, she would be able to later edit the work and find diamonds in the rough of her first draft. These "leads" as she described them, would be taken from her first draft and used in the second and final draft to create the full review, and sent to the magazine. (Lamott, 2)

### Part III.

After having read “Shitty First Drafts” from the book “Bird by Bird” by Anne Lamott, I feel that I have a clearer understanding of the optimal writing process. I can understand how creating a rough first draft can help to unleash creative writing ability, thus allowing writers to see a full work of their minds and then go back and edit to create an ideal version. Although there may be many benefits to this, I don’t believe that writing a first draft will be the greatest asset to my writing. For me, I believe that I do my best work when I can sit down and create the work straight from my mind. When I must work on something for a great amount of time, or create two or three versions of an assignment, I become bored with it and find myself less motivated to put my creative effort into it. This is why, for me, I believe that simply writing down quotes and simple phrases that I want to include by hand and then referencing them while writing helps me to stay in a flow state and keep myself on track with the assignment. However, something did stick out to me in Lamott’s “Shitty First Drafts,” which was “I’d start writing without reining myself in. It was almost just typing, just making my fingers move. And the writing would be terrible.” (Lamott, 1) I believe that I would benefit from incorporating this idea into my handwritten notes; by writing whatever comes to mind and letting my mind wander freely, I believe that I will have more content to work with. Sometimes I feel like I run out of things to say, and by creating more “rough” content, I can sift through it and make a more complete paper when I sit down to write. In Major Project 1, I would like to incorporate this into my writing. With more content to work with, I believe that my overall voice as a writer will be improved since I will be able to convey my thoughts more clearly and with more strength. Another habit that I would like to establish as a writer is proofreading each paragraph as I write it. This way, I can go back twice to edit my paper, since I will be reviewing it right away, and then for a second time after completing the entire essay.

Works Cited:

Lamott , Anne. "Shitty First Drafts." *Bird by Bird*, 9th ed., Pantheon Books , Boston , Massachusetts , 1994, pp. 21–27.