

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# Introduction to the Writing Process

**Why do we write? Why is it important not only in school, but in life?**

There are many reasons why we write. Some of the most important reasons for writing are listed below:

1. We write to communicate what we think, what we know, and how we feel.
2. We write to reflect and to think about our experiences.
3. We write to learn and show understanding.
4. We write to share ideas.



**WRITING ALLOWS US TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHERS ACROSS TIME AND SPACE!**

**Think of some examples of how writing transcends both time and space...**

1. Writings from the past can still be read today.
2. Student writing can be saved and looked at again and again.
3. An author's book can entertain a reader for hundreds of years.

**"We write to taste life twice."**

**Anais Nin**

## **WHY DO YOU WRITE?**

In the space below, give me four reasons why *you* write.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |

**THE BIG PICTURE- WRITING IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR LIVES!!!**

## **Why Write?**

We all have the need and desire to show how we feel and what we know. Once we learn how to put words together skillfully, we can express just about anything with our writing. Writing can be a joyful experience. Writers discover things about themselves through the writing process. Playfulness, humor, intelligence, and introspection can all be expressed through writing.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK LIFE WOULD BE LIKE IF WE COULD NOT WRITE?**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

### THE FOUR TYPES OF WRITING

1. **Narrative-** This type of writing tells a story and can be used to share experiences, introduce essays, and give examples.
  2. **Persuasive-** This type of writing is used when you want the reader to agree with you, see things your way, or follow your advice.
  3. **Informative-** This type of writing is also called expository writing. It presents ideas, explains how something works, gives directions, or defines something.
  4. **Descriptive-** This type of writing gives the reader a clear picture of a person, place, thing, or idea.
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### THE WRITING PROCESS

#### What are the five steps of the writing process?

The best writers use the writing process to help them complete their work. The steps of the writing process are described below:

1. **Pre-writing-**At the start of an assignment, a writer explores possible topics before selecting one to write about. Then, the writer collects details about the topic and plans how to use them.
  2. **Drafting/Writing-**During this step, the writer completes the first draft using the prewriting plan as a guide. This draft is a writer's first chance to get everything down on paper.
  3. **Revising-**The writer changes any ideas that are not clear or complete. A wise writer will ask at least one other person to review the draft as well.
  4. **Editing and Proofreading-**The writer checks his or her revised writing for correctness before preparing a final copy. The writer proofreads the final copy for errors before sharing or publishing.
  5. **Publishing/Presenting-**This is the final step in the writing process. This is the opportunity to share writing with others.
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### THE SIX TRAITS OF WRITING

Good writers know that they must pay careful attention to the *ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions* in everything they write. You should do the same in each of your writing assignments. Good writing is made up of these six main traits, or qualities. Each of these traits is important for every essay, story, or report that you develop. The six traits of writing are described below:

1. **Ideas-** Effective writing has a clear message, purpose, or focus. The writing contains plenty of specific ideas and details.
2. **Organization-** Strong writing has a clear beginning, middle, and ending. The overall writing is well organized and easy to follow.
3. **Voice-** The best writing reveals the writer's voice- or special way of saying things. The voice also fits the audience and purpose.
4. **Word Choice-** Good writing contains strong words, including specific nouns and verbs. Strong words help deliver a clear message.
5. **Sentence Fluency-** Effective writing flows smoothly from one sentence to the next. Sentences vary in length and begin in different ways.
6. **Conventions-**Good writing is carefully edited to make sure it is easy to understand. The writing follows the rules for punctuation, grammar, and spelling.