

The Writing Process

Prewriting



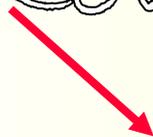
Drafting



Responding



Revising



Editing



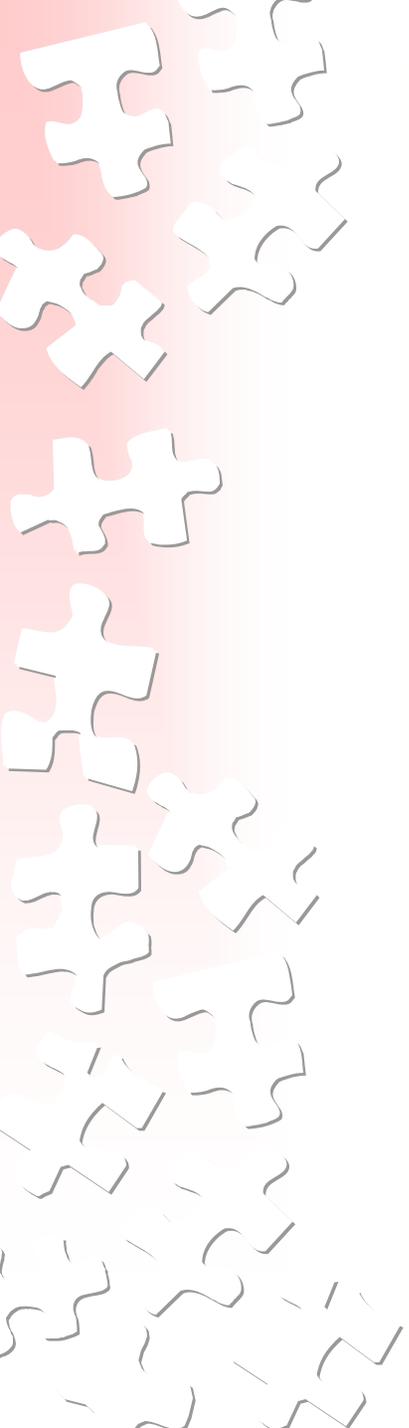
Publishing

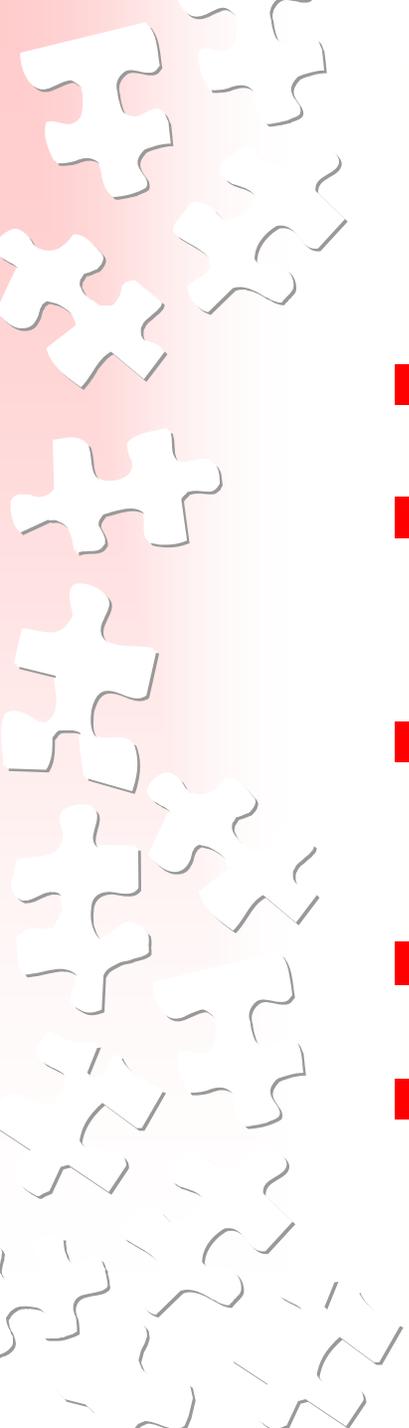


Prewriting

PREWRITING

Prewriting is the first stage of the writing process in which you use brainstorming, semantic webs, clusters, etc. to discover topics while developing a sense of purpose and audience.





Prewriting

- Thinking about possible subjects
- Freely jotting down ideas on paper or computer
- Narrowing the subject and writing the main idea in one sentence
- Deciding which ideas to include
- Arranging ideas in a plan or outline

Drafting

FIRST DRAFT

The first draft is the second stage of the writing process in which you write quickly, guessing at spellings, crossing out, leaving blanks, and using abbreviations. The focus is on content, not correctness.

Responding

Peer
Conferences

Author's
Chair

Responding to the 1st Draft

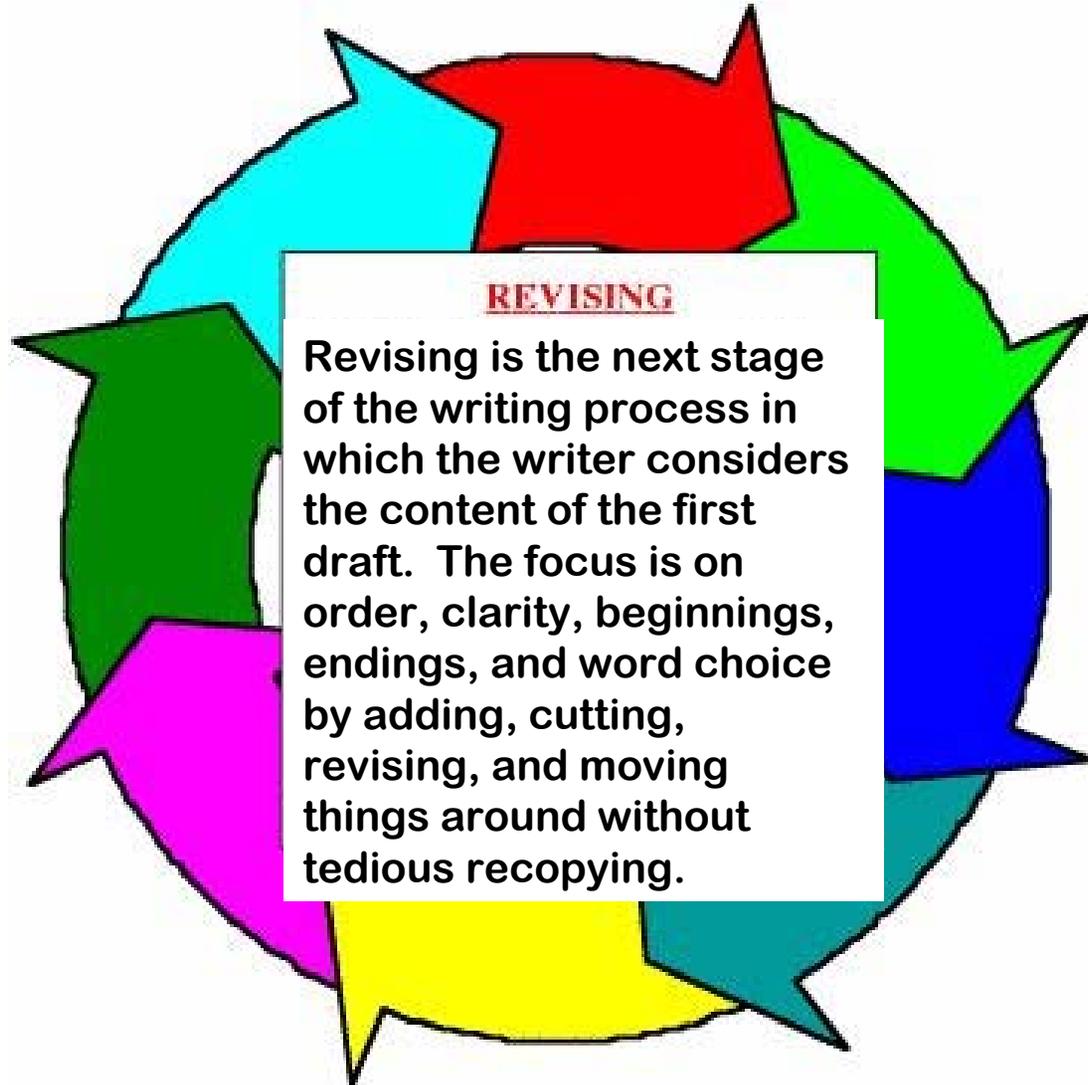
Through feedback from readers, young writers discover how well they have communicated their ideas and whether readers seek more information or clarification. Response generates the motivation to revise.

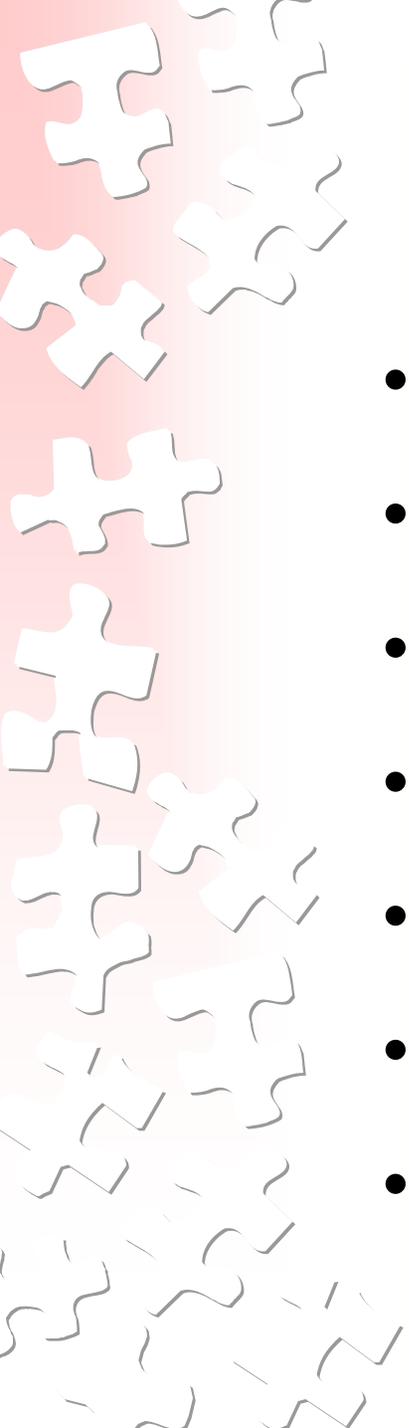
Self-Response
Using Checklists

Student-Teacher
Conferences



Revising





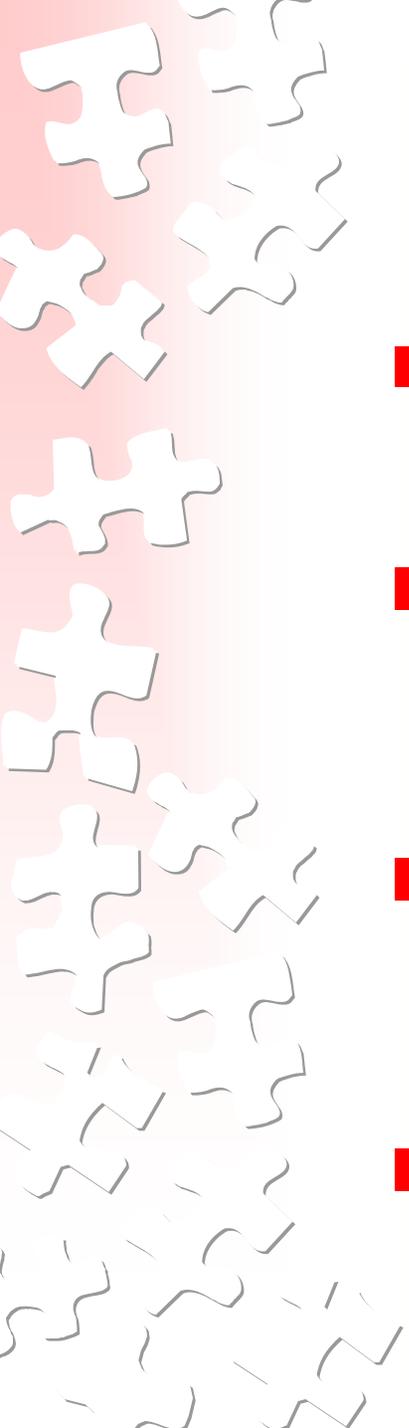
1. Additions:

- More words per sentence
- More concrete examples
- More explanations
- More specific nouns
- More describing words
- More literary devices (similes for example)
- More words that tell when, where, or how



2. Substitutions:

- Change a common or overused verb for one with more sparkle or exactness
- Change the verbs to the same time –
 - expository: present tense
 - narrative: past tense
- Use a thesaurus and choose a different adjective or synonym to describe
- Substitute your opening or closing sentence with one that makes your reader curious or makes them think about something important.



3. Deletions

- Delete words that repeat the same idea.
- Delete words or ideas that are extra and stray from your topic or story.
- Get rid of dialogue that does not advance the plot of your story.
- Delete opening statements that tell what you are going to write about or tell your reader about.



4. Reorganization

- Keep like information together.
- Change the order of words so that they sound better or have a better rhythm when read aloud.
- Look at the paragraphs to see if they begin a new idea or event. If not, combine with the previous paragraph.
- Change the beginning of some of your sentences so that all sentences aren't the same.
- Combine short, choppy sentences.

Editing or Proofreading



Correcting spelling errors

Correcting capitalization mistakes

Making subjects, pronouns, and verbs agree in number.

Adding necessary punctuation and omitting extra punctuation.

Making sure all sentences are complete and correct.

Using forms of words correctly in sentences.

Publishing



Sharing, displaying, reading, and actual publishing information texts as well as stories and poetry is a great motivation for writing. Hand-published books made by students, ready to use blank books, and the classroom computer offer strong invitations to write. Publishing helps students see the reason for revising and editing!

Contest Submissions

Author Days

Bulletin Boards

Tape Recordings

School Audiences

Newsletters

Buddy Classes

Scrapbooks

Computer Presentations

Class Collections