

# Writing Process

# OVERVIEW

**Definition**

**Developing**

**Tips**

— **Generating**

— **Drafting**

— **Revising**

**Practice**

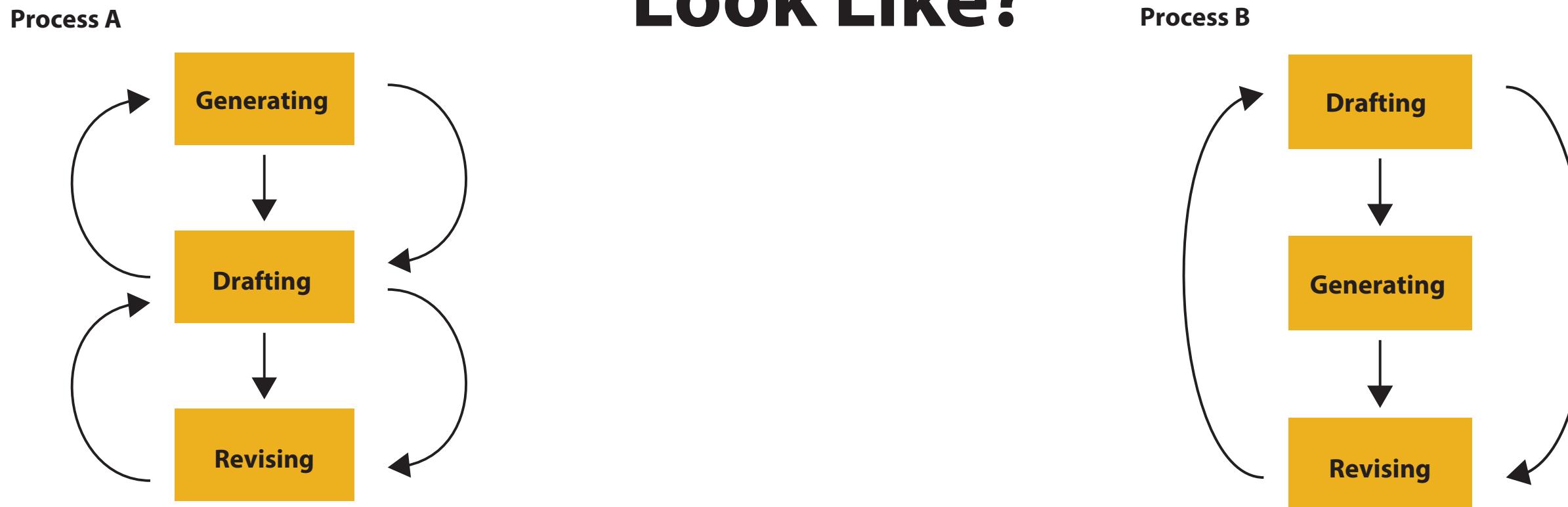
## What Does a Successful Writing Process Look Like?

There is no one-size-fits-all writing process, and what makes a successful process for one person may not be effective for another. It will likely take some trial and error to find what suits you best; however, below are a few examples that are generally helpful for most students.

# Writing Process

# DEFINITION

## What Does a Successful Writing Process Look Like?



Some writers benefit from beginning their process with generating ideas, followed by drafting, then revising what is written, and then drafting more of their text. They then generate more ideas and repeat the process until satisfied with their work.

Some writers benefit from beginning their process with drafting something, followed by stopping to generate ideas, then revising what is written, and then drafting more of their text.

### Developing Your Process

When considering where you want to start in the writing process, you will need to ensure that **all three phases are included**. Think about which phase feels natural as a starting point. If simply getting started poses a challenge, perhaps begining with drafting will be the best, but if you need a guide to get started, you may find the generating phase to be best.

# Writing Process

# DEVELOPING

## The Three Phases of the Writing Process

### Generating

This phase consists of generating ideas. This can occur while writing and/or prewriting.

### Drafting

This phase consists of writing the preliminary or unfinished version of the text. This can be either a partial draft or a full draft of the text.

### Revising

This phase consists of looking at your work with fresh eyes and making adjustments and edits. This phase typically occurs after generating and drafting.

## Things to Keep in Mind

- There is no right or wrong process for writing.
- It is almost never linear or sequential, meaning it won't follow a one phase to the next neatly and will cycle between the phases.
- It is okay if your process looks different when writing different types of text (e.g., an academic essay and a creative short story will likely require different processes).

## Thesis Statements

A thesis statement is the position, topic, or main point of the paper. It's a sentence that answers the questions about your topic and helps the reader understand your main idea/position. It also helps you, the writer, stay on track as you write your paper.

### A Thesis Statement IS

- As clear, concise, and specific as possible
- An answer the questions about your topic
- Rational and supported by genuine facts

### A Thesis Statement is NOT

- Broad or vague
- An outline of the paper
- A question
- An opinion

# Writing Process

# TIPS

## Tips for the Generating Phase

- Try brainstorming by making a list of ideas.
- Try freewriting for 5 to 10 minutes.
- Make a web/diagram of different words or ideas.
- Try creating an outline or flowchart to help determine the structure of your text.

# Writing Process

# TIPS

## Tips for the Drafting Phase

- Avoid getting stuck on finding the right word.
- Don't worry about grammar and details, which don't have to be perfect in a draft.
- Focus on keeping your flow and pace while writing—the goal is to just have a draft, not a polished work.
- Make sure if you already have a thesis to keep it in mind.
- Feel free to draft only part of your text if you want to revise before drafting the rest.

## Tips for the Revising Phase

- Consider your audience, and ensure you are writing in a manner that will communicate your thoughts to them effectively.
- Be mindful of your message and make sure that message is coming through in your text.
- Make sure you integrated kairos, creating a sense of urgency, relevancy, or importance for your readers.
- Think about how you are expressing yourself in your text through your tone, voice, and style.
- Ensure that your text is cohesive.
- Review details such as grammar, spelling, and similar conventions.

# Writing Process

# PRACTICE

## What Does Your Writing Process Look Like?

Using either the worksheet provided or a spare sheet of paper, fill out your preferred writing process; note your topic, research question, or thesis statement; and begin implementing your process.

