

Writing Assignment 1 Writing and You

Write a paragraph describing your attitudes toward writing. Use the following steps.

Prewrite: Jot down a few of the words that come to mind when you think of writing. Think of any significant experiences you have had that have shaped your attitude toward writing. Consider your writing habits. Are you organized? Do you procrastinate?

Plan: Look over your prewriting. Try to sum up your attitude toward writing in a single word or phrase, and then construct an opening sentence for your paragraph using that word or phrase. Use one of the following sentences, filling in the blank with your word or phrase, or construct your own sentence.

- My attitude toward writing is _____.
- When I think about writing, I feel _____.
- My feelings about writing have always been _____ ones.

Once you have constructed an opening sentence, decide how to organize your paragraph. A couple of possibilities are listed here.

1. Take a historical approach, describing the influences that have shaped your writing. Use chronological (time) order.
2. Take a step-by-step approach, describing what you do and how you feel as you go through a writing assignment.

Finally, complete the planning stage by making an outline that briefly lists the points you plan to make in support of your opening sentence.

Draft: Write out a rough draft of your paragraph. Focus on expressing your ideas rather than on grammar and punctuation.

Revise: Read over your rough draft. Have you left out anything important? Is each idea clearly expressed? Does the paragraph flow smoothly? Is the sequence of ideas logical and effective? If possible, ask a classmate to look over your rough draft with the same questions in mind. Then revise your paragraph, incorporating any necessary changes.

Proofread: Check your paragraph for mistakes in spelling, grammar, or punctuation. Look at each sentence individually. Then proofread once more. You have now completed all the steps in the writing process.