Draft Two

Thoughts on Writing

Okay so we got a paper due next week. We need to prewrite! What was the paper about again? Our writing process? But wait, how am I supposed to prewrite about writing! Let’s see. Introduction. What should I start with? We wrote that paragraph about the quote from Frasier. I talked about my writing process in there could that work? Okay then what else? I use an outline most of the time could I write about that? Let’s just start writing and see where it goes...

In the show Frasier, Frasier said, “We cannot be intimidated by the tyranny of the blank page.” This quote speaks a lot to me because in past school, I was taught to write in order. You had to start with the introduction and end with the conclusion. I was taught to prewrite with an outline. I typically use the basic number outline. For the introduction I made a hook sentence, a summary of the background of the topic, and the thesis of topic sentence if needed. For each body paragraph I made a topic sentence and gathered evidence and personal experience with the subject. Then for the conclusion I would rewrite the thesis but in different words. Using this process made writing the whole essay easy. All you had to do is make some filler sentences and transitions. However, this process didn’t work for all essays as I have learned. I still use the basic number outline but it only makes sense to use it with argumentative or source-based essays.

When I started here at Spalding, one of my teachers, Dr. Foster, taught me to begin writing with the paragraph you feel most confident about. Start with the paragraph you have the most information for. Using this method changed my way of writing. I feel like my writing has evolved tremendously. I use to get caught on making the hook but now I let my creative juices flow and write whatever comes to mind. It makes it easier to write the whole paper and helps

Commented [LA1]: You’ve made some thoughtful revisions to this draft. Well done! Considering your professor as the audience, should you explicitly explain the connection between this thought process as part of your writing process? Maybe add a few sentences at the start or end of this paragraph to draw a connection for the reader?

Commented [LA2]: This is a little unclear. You were taught to write from beginning to end without stopping? You were taught to write in order of a standard 5 paragraph essay? You were taught to write from the beginning idea to the end idea?

Commented [LA3]: Nice! This is a great critical reflection.
avoid writer's block. Even on papers I make an outline for I still use this process. I start with the paragraph that I gathered the most information for.

In papers that don’t work with an outline such as narratives I still use some form of prewriting. Any ideas I have I will write down on paper and when it comes time to write I just let my fingers go to work. I like to call it organized free writing. I have a general idea of what’s going on (not really I have no idea where this is going) and I just keep typing what comes to my mind. Then I will go back and read what I have down and it either makes complete sense or it’s a complete jumbled mess. If that is the case then I will just make it a little more organized and hope the reader understands. But some things only make sense to me just like my writing process.

Writing comes to everyone in different ways. I like to keep mine as organized as possible but that might seem hard for others. All I can say is to write however feels more natural. It’s okay if the first draft doesn’t make it to the final draft. As long as you’re happy, your readers will be too.