

Writing Process Tip Sheet

Different people approach writing in different ways, but I want you to start thinking about writing as a process. Writing can be intimidating and is often a difficult and sometimes frustrating process, but in this class I want you to become conscious of the process of writing. I want you to start thinking about writing by going through these steps. Hopefully, this process will make writing easier and more accessible; hopefully, you will become a better writer.

INVENTION	ARRANGEMENT	STYLE
<u>Developing Ideas:</u> Brainstorming Webbing/Clustering Research/Reading Talking to Others/Discussion Critical Analysis Grids Freewriting* Observation	<u>Organizing Ideas/Arguments/Information (Adding, Deleting, Sorting, Setting up Paragraph Flow):</u> Formal Outlines Informal Outlines Webbing Organization Maps Writing Plans Lists	<u>“Clean up”/Sentence Flow/Sentence Effectiveness:</u> Grammar/Punctuation/Spelling Don’t “write up” No “flowery” sentences No “50 cent” words No padding Use clear, direct, precise language Use good compound-complex sentences

THESIS (versus topic)

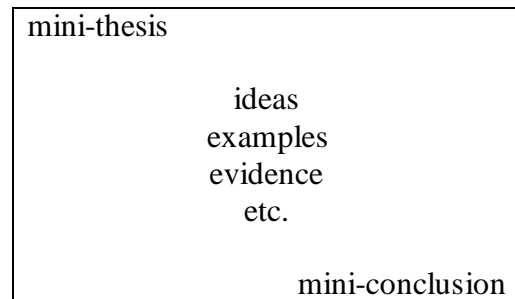
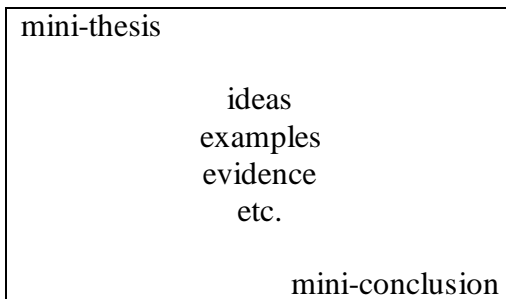
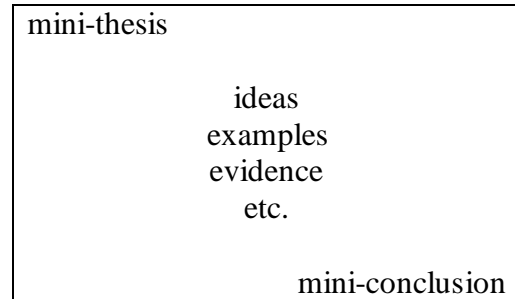
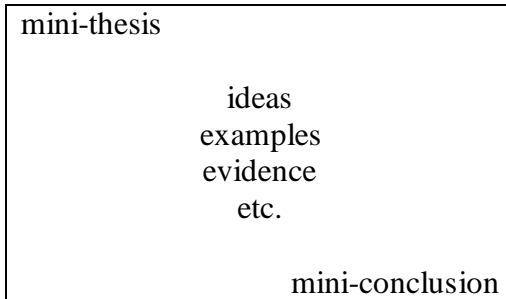
AUDIENCE

Who are you writing for? What do they know? What don’t they know? What are their beliefs and values? Consider particular points of view and cultural positions/roles as you get ready to convey your ideas or story or make your argument.

(over)

PARAGRAPH BUILDING

At a basic level, each paragraph is like a mini-essay: it has a mini-thesis that refers to the main thesis and a mini-conclusion (that will eventually build to a larger final point). Evidence, information, narrative, arguments, and ideas develop and flow in between these two “anchor points” of your paragraph.



PURPOSE
Think about how you are going to effectively convey particular information to a particular audience.
What does your audience know?
What do they need to know?
How can you best reach them?
What do they expect when they approach your writing?
Lay out your sequence paragraph by paragraph considering the issues above.

COMPUTER TOOLS
<u>Use these with extreme caution:</u>
<u>Spell Checkers:</u> Cannot distinguish homonyms Make mistakes in word use
<u>Grammar Checks:</u> Will put you into simple sentence structures Can make serious grammar errors Don't know anything about writing

Good writing is rewriting.