

# The Essay Writing Process

# A Recursive Process

- Writing is also a recursive process. This means that you repeat the steps over and over again, though not necessarily every step, every time.

The following diagram illustrates the recursive nature of the writing process.

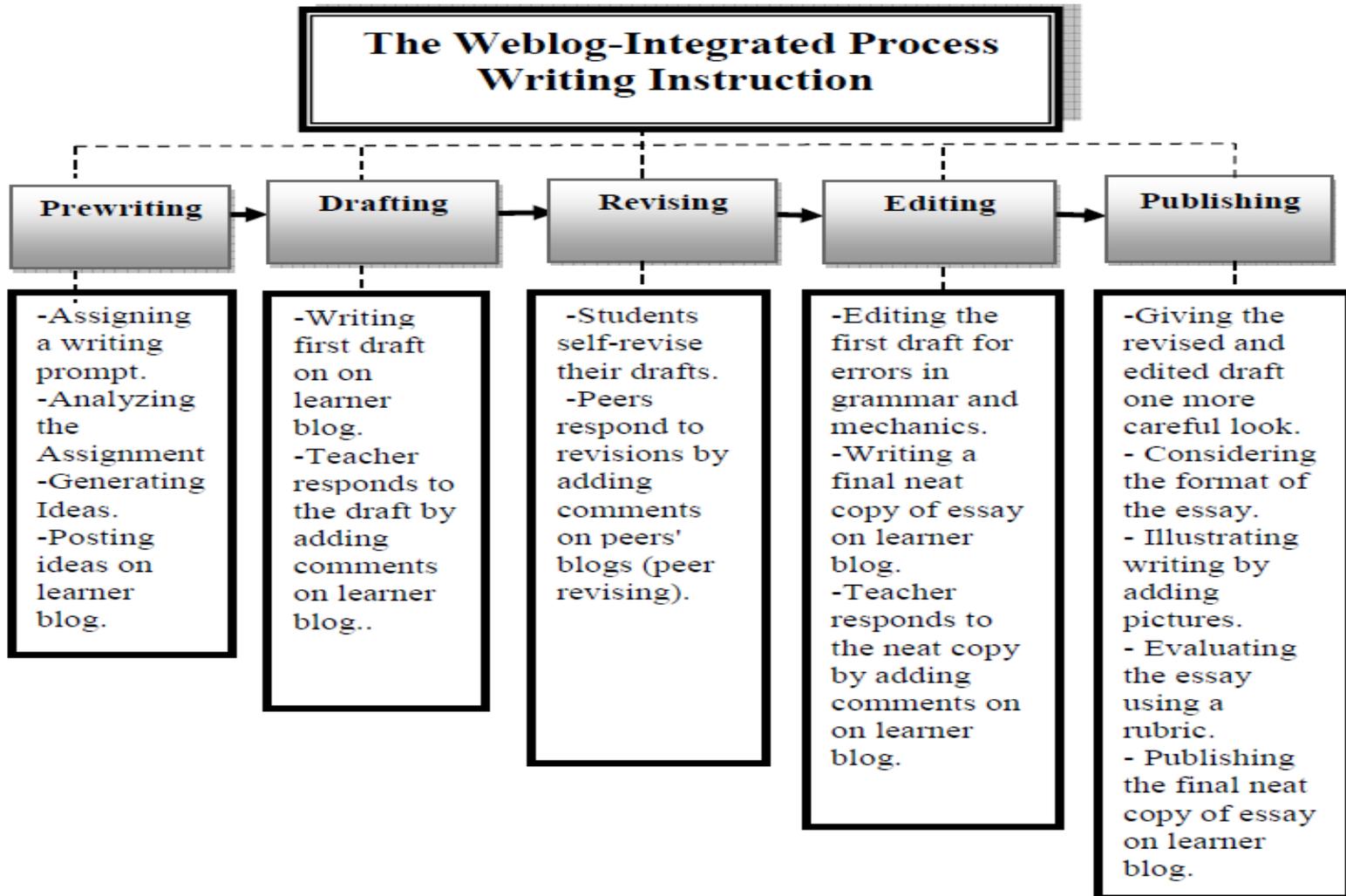


# **Blogging the Writing Process: An**

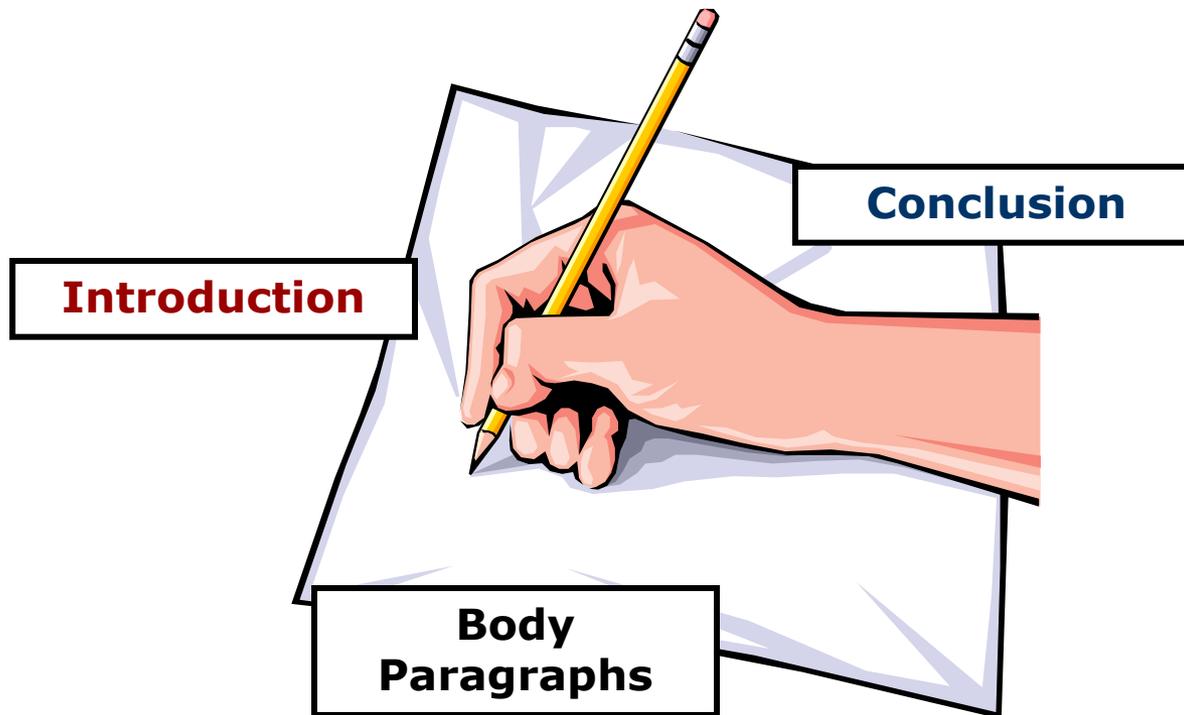
## **Introduction:**

- Blogging proved to be an effective tool for the writing process approach as evidenced by the numerous benefits for its use that outweighed the drawbacks. Throughout this course, blogging will be integrated into the five stages of the writing process in order to compose different types of essays.

As shown in the diagram below, blogging will be integrated into the five stages of the writing process approach which; in turn, will be broken down to a number of key stages:



# Parts of an Essay

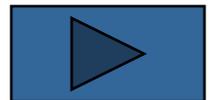
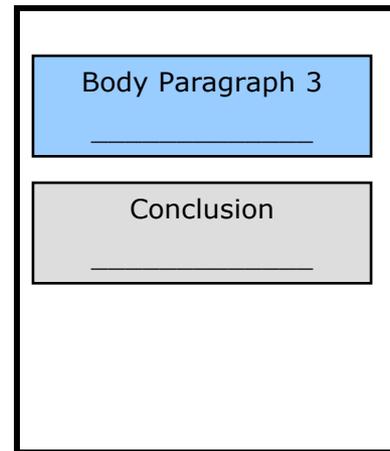
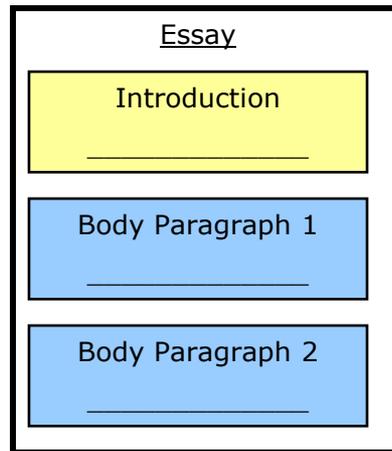


# Introduction

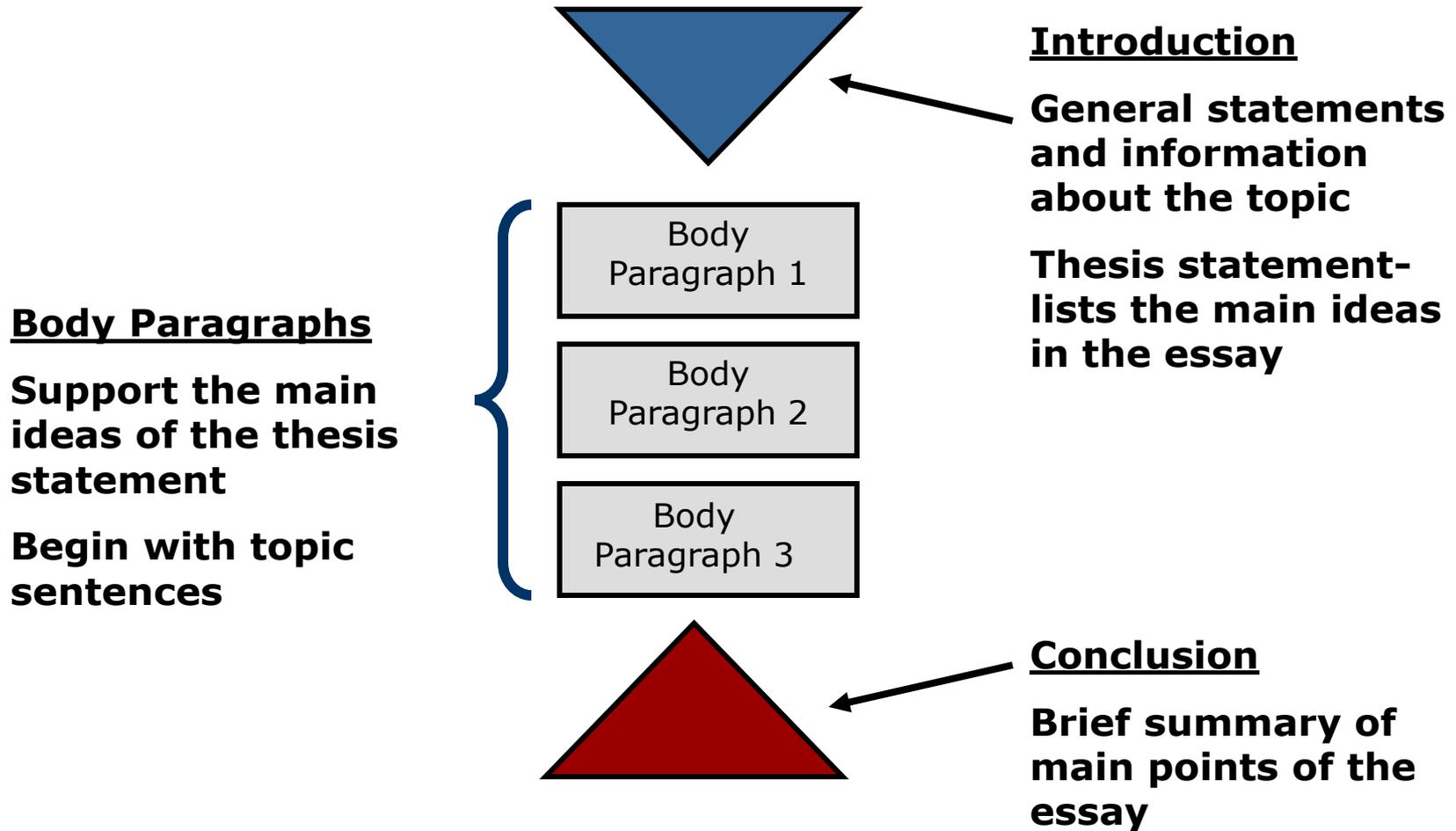
## What is an essay ?



An essay is a piece of writing that usually has five or more paragraphs. An essay is written about one topic that has several main points. The main points are introduced in an **introductory paragraph** and supported in **body paragraphs**. The **conclusion** is the last paragraph.

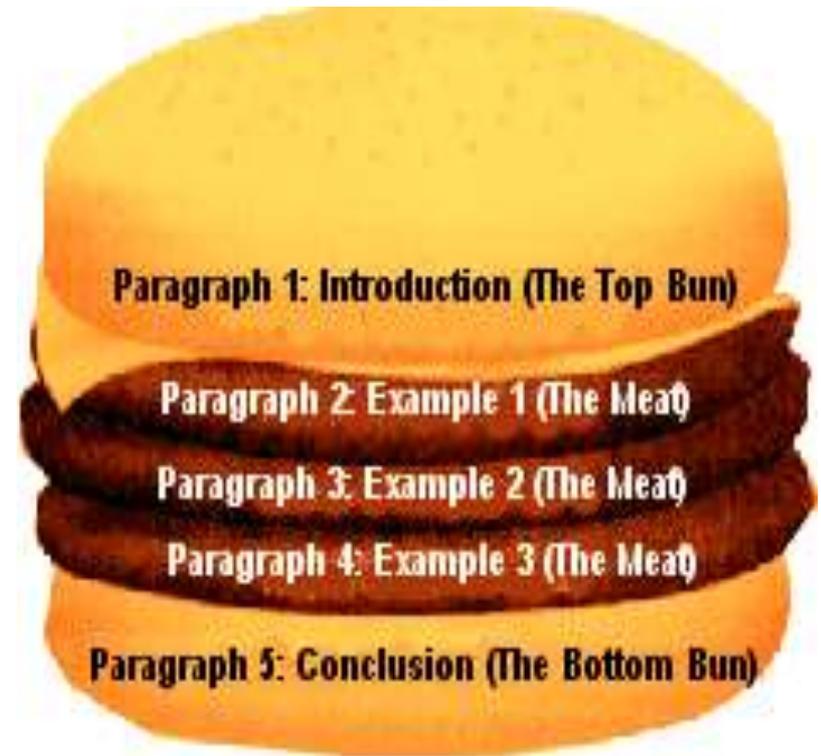


# Overview of an Essay



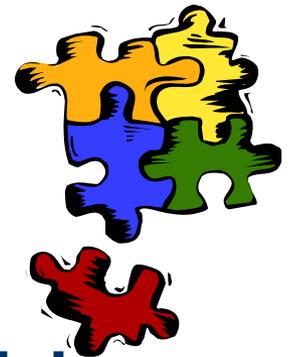
# The Hamburger Method

- Essays, like sandwiches or burgers, are divided into different
- Introduction
- Body
- Conclusion



# Parts of an Essay

## An Introduction



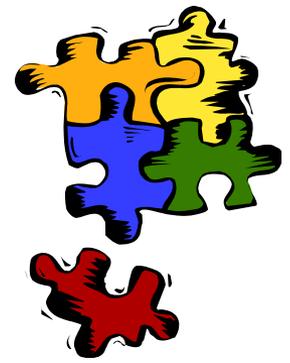
**An *introductory paragraph* is the first paragraph in an essay. It contains two parts.**

- 1. General Statements: a few sentences about your subject that catch the attention of your reader.**
- 2. A Thesis Statement: one sentence that tells your reader the main points of your topic and states the overall “plan” of your essay.**

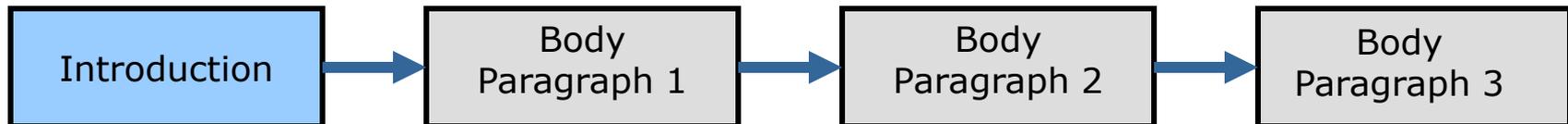


# Parts of an Essay

## Body Paragraphs

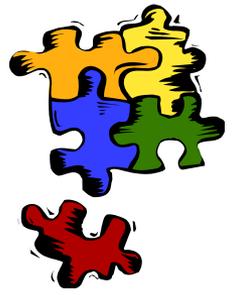


The body consists of one or more paragraphs following the introduction. Each paragraph supports the main idea of your essay by breaking it down into smaller ideas or sub-topics. Each body paragraph consists of a topic sentence and several supporting sentences. A conclusion sentence draws the paragraph together.

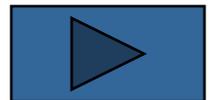
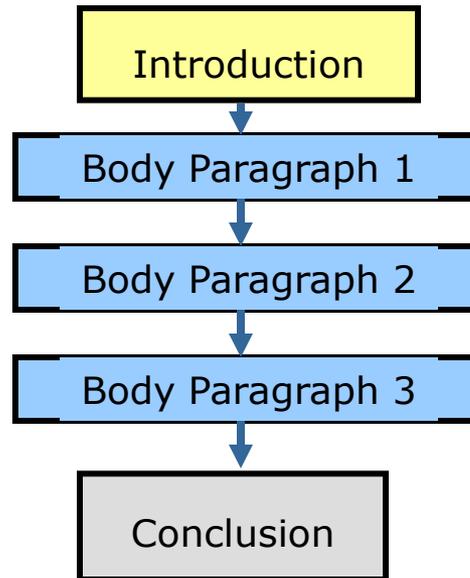


# Parts of an Essay

## Conclusion



The conclusion paragraph is the last paragraph in the essay. It completes the essay by summarizing or repeating the most important ideas. The conclusion can also include an opinion, a prediction, or a solution to a problem.



# Example

## An Introduction



### General Statements

Going to a new school can be exciting, but for an international student, the years of education in a different country can be difficult and tumultuous. When I first arrived in the U.S. to attend a university, I was overwhelmed and confused by everything new.

Fortunately, I met three very special friends who made a positive impact on my life during those years and helped me survive the trials of being a foreigner in a completely different educational system.

### Thesis Statement



# Example

## Body Paragraph

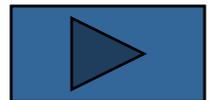


**Topic Sentence**

One of the first people I met was Joe Frieda. I first met Joe standing in a line at the bookstore. I was having a difficult time finding the books for the English classes I was taking my first semester here. He not only helped me find my books, but he also gave me some good advice on where to get tutorial help on campus and where I could find some good restaurants. We've become better friends since then and he has been so helpful in answering any questions I have about going to school in the U.S. and about American culture. If I hadn't met Joe that day, I might still be looking for the right books for my classes!

**Concluding Sentence**

**Supporting Sentences**



# Example

## Conclusion



**Summary of Main Ideas**

“The significance of the kindness that these three people showed me and the impact that it has made on my life during my experience as an international student at State University cannot be underestimated. I will never forget their friendship and will remember their examples of kindness to me whenever I encounter other foreigners in my own country.

**Promise or Resolution**



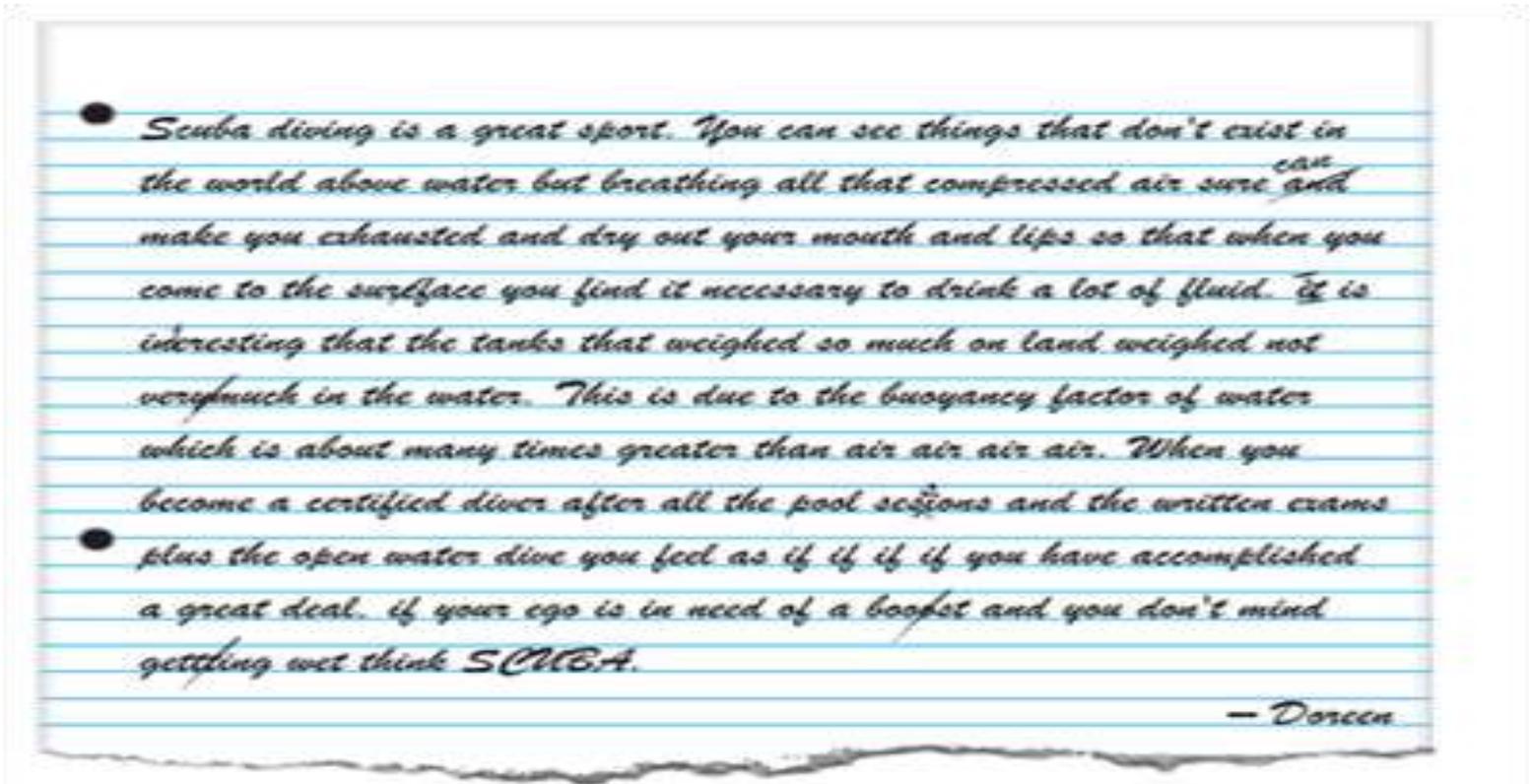
# **Stages of the Writing Process**

# 1) Prewriting

- Prewriting is the first stage of the writing process. Prewriting, as its name suggests, is something you do *before* you write a paragraph or essay or other written work. The purpose of the prewriting stage is to find a topic for writing, to collect ideas and information, and to do research if necessary. There are many different types of prewriting that help writers generate ideas. The different types of prewriting that we will explore here are: **freewriting, brainstorming, clustering, questioning, and Venn diagram.**

# A) Freewriting

- Freewriting is when someone writes freely what comes to mind in sentences or phrases, without worrying about grammar, punctuation or making sense.



# B) Brainstorming

- Brainstorming or listing is when you freely write down all ideas in the order which they occur to you.

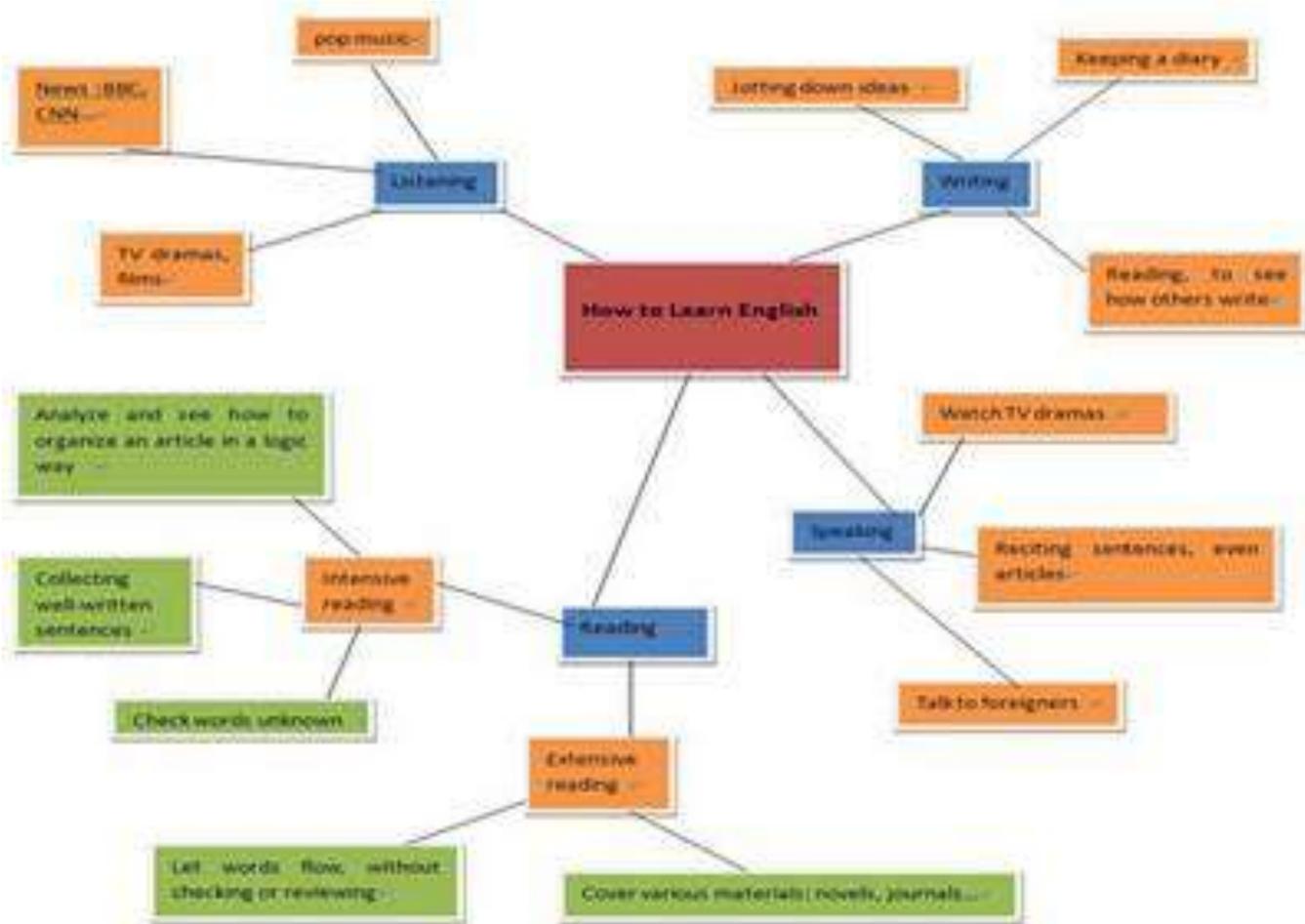


# C) Questioning

- When you prewrite with the questioning technique, you are trying to find out the *How?* *Who?* *What?* *Where?* *When?* and *Why?* about your topic.

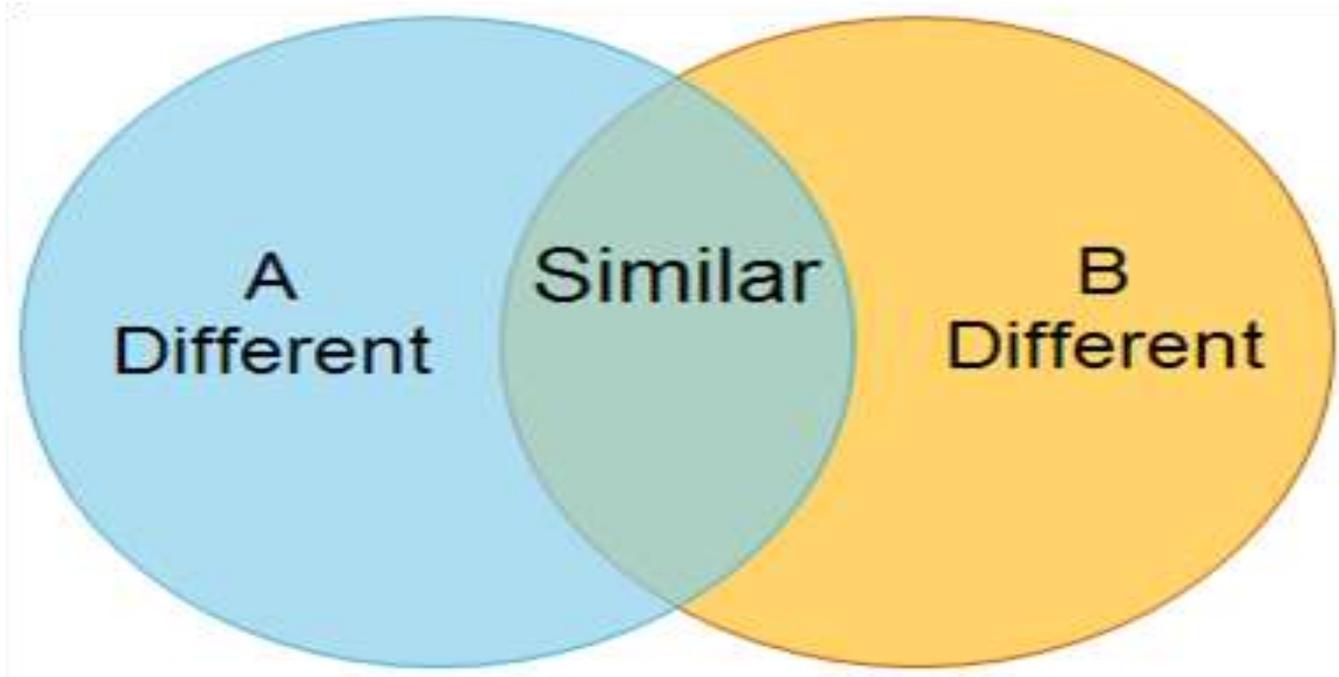
# D) Clustering

- **Clustering, or mind mapping is a "visual of outlining", putting the main topic in the center of paper and lining it with any new ideas associated. You can also group sub-ideas around this new idea. This strategy allows you to collect ideas effectively and, particularly, understand the logic contained between ideas.**



# E) Venn diagram

- A Venn diagram is used to help visualize the similarities and differences between two subjects. Venn diagrams are very useful when brainstorming a compare and contrast essay.



## 2) Drafting

- Drafting is the **second** stage of the writing process. At this stage, the writer should write a complete first draft using his or her notes from prewriting as a guide. The purpose in drafting is to have a complete draft, not a perfect one, so writers are encouraged to ignore spelling or grammar mistakes and write quickly

# 3) Revising

- Revising is the **third** stage of the writing process. In fact, to revise means literally to “re-see” or “re-look” at your writing. When you revise, you look at the parts of your essay and make sure that each part works together to make a coherent whole. Similarly, feedback from others can help you identify those parts of the essay that work well--and those that do not. Revising often includes **adding**, **cutting**, **moving**, or **changing** information in order to make the ideas clearer, more accurate, more interesting, or more convincing.

# 4) Editing

- Editing is the **fourth** stage of the writing process. In this stage, you check your text to make sure that there are no errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

# 5) Publishing

- This is the **last** stage of the writing process. In this stage, you share the essay you have written with the readers you determined in the prewriting stage. The purpose of publishing is to share and celebrate your finished products. When writers publish their writing, they produce a clean, neat final draft that is free of errors.