

My Writing Process

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A writer's job is very similar to an artist's in that he or she seeks to produce work that is aesthetically pleasing to the reader. As a writer, my favorite part of the writing process is creating that aesthetic appeal; finding the right synonym for a bland adjective or the perfect phrasing of a complex idea. But first, I begin every paper by sitting down with a blank sheet of paper and jotting down anything related to the topic that comes to mind. I do this for as long as I need to, stopping only when my thoughts have. I usually find that my brain works faster than my hand can write, so I tend to scribble notes in shorthand and sentence fragments. Next comes the difficult part: organizing this jumbled mess. With a few highlighters, I color code similar ideas. Soon my cluttered brainstorming effort is transformed into a colorful map of circles and arrows. At this point, I am ready to transfer my notes into a word document where they will be easier to read and edit. Thus, I type the notes in sections according to their assigned colors. For this paper in particular (and in COMS 100B), I then further divided each group of ideas into one of the four steps of critical thinking: description, analysis, interpretation, an evaluation. Only after organizing my ideas in this fashion do I actually begin writing the paper. As I previously stated, my favorite part of the writing process is not just telling a story or conveying an idea – it's making those ideas look and sound nice. Fortunately, I already have the bulk of my content on paper, so I now can focus on elaborating on ideas and tweaking my wordage. Although this is a time-consuming process, I have found it to work well for me. If I didn't organize my thoughts at the start, I would probably forget many of my ideas by the time I got past my first body paragraph.