

Student Cover Letter

**Description of Writing Process for:
America's First Great Awakening**

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Writing is a mixture of disciplines: sometimes art, sometimes science. It is an opportunity for self-expression and originality. Most of all, it is a process. My writing process depends upon the project. Though it always consists of three stages, planning, writing, and revision, the amount of time available to devote to a project dictates the strategy utilized for each stage. Above all, like a painter trying to mix an elusive perfect shade of a desired color, my writing process is an organized expression of hit and miss.

“America's First Great Awakening” was written for a midterm. It required minimal research. The planning process started by constructing a list of potential topics which fit the prompt. These were gleaned from class notes and textbooks. At the same time the brainstorming list was under construction, I visualized various directions the paper might take. Visualization is the most important part of my pre-writing activities. As with most of my writing, I saw the paper before it was written.

After sufficient brainstorming, I wrote a tentative thesis statement and an introduction. Though the controlling idea did not change throughout the paper's development, the thesis statement went through several revisions. After the introduction, a tentative conclusion was written. The thesis statement, introduction, and conclusion set the tone for the paper.

Since the paper is essentially a history paper I chose to blend chronology with thematic considerations. Class notes were the main tool used in this process. As each body paragraph was developed, textbooks were perused for ideas and quotations that would add credibility to the

work. When ideas were found, page numbers were recorded and notes made to facilitate an easy return to their source. As ideas and quotations were added, brief footnotes were made. These brief notes were later rewritten to conform to the Turabian style. As each body paragraph was completed it was read out loud. Minor revisions were made as needed.

Once the initial draft was complete the entire paper was read out loud. The revision process continued. Organizational issues, sentence structure, and verb choice dominated this revision. After this, the paper was set aside for two days. Then the revision process began again. As is true with all of my written work, I was not satisfied with the final product. However, in order to avoid over writing, the paper was turned in for a grade.