

# THE WRITING PROCESS

Although no two writers are exactly alike, there is a general process that most writers use when creating a piece of writing. The Writing Process is promoted in our classrooms and is widely accepted as a "best practice" in English Language Arts Instruction (Temple, et. al.). There are stages within the writing process and those stages build upon one another. Then, as a writing piece develops, the student and teacher confer throughout the piece.

## **PREWRITING**

Writing instruction often begins with a brainstorming session or some other type of prewriting activity that helps writers think through what they will write about that day. Whether the class is writing in a specific genre or for a specific purpose, this is the time for students to generate individual ideas for writing. It is the "getting ready to write" step in the process.

## **DRAFTING**

After students have been given time to generate ideas and envision what their writing piece might become, they are asked to write a first draft. During the drafting stage, writers are encouraged to express their thoughts without the constraints of editing. Students know that they will be given time to revise and edit the final piece.

## **REVISING**

When students revise they do much more than fix their writing. Instead, they change it for the better. Revising may include changing words, rewording a sentence, or even rewriting an entire paragraph. This is the stage when writers reflect on the best way to refine their writing.

## **EDITING**

Yes, rest assured, editing does play an important role in all writing process pieces. The editing stage is a time to fix spelling errors, correct grammatical mistakes, and double-check that the students are communicating in precise ways to an audience. However, the editing process looks very different in kindergarten than it does in high school! Kindergarten students may be expected to edit for capital letters at the beginning of sentences, while second graders may be expected to apply rules of punctuation consistently.

## **PUBLISHING**

The final step of the writing process is publishing. This stage is often a favorite for many writers. It is when they make their writing public in some way. Published pieces are polished through the revising and editing stages and are in final draft form.

# NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Literacy Vision / Philosophy Statement

August 16, 2011

Newtown Public Schools comprise a cohesive interdependent K-12 school system that encourages, values, and supports literacy for everyone. We are committed to providing a learning environment that inspires creativity and academic risk taking allowing students the opportunity to grow through authentic experiences where they will have the opportunity to discuss, defend, and expand their thinking. In order to be literate citizens in the global economy, learners master literacy skills in a variety of forms and contexts with specific attention to reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing. We prepare learners to be socially responsible individuals who access and evaluate information from multiple sources and express their ideas clearly and with purpose. Newtown Public Schools realize that a partnership among home, school, and community is vital to support this level of learning. Collectively, our goal is to ignite a life-long passion for literacy.



**NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470**

**203-426-7600**

**[www.newtown.k12.ct.us](http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us)**

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# Writing Instruction in NEWTOWN

## *A Parent Writing Resource K-6*



**Newtown Public Schools**  
*Inspiring Students to Excel*

**March 2012**

## Writing Apps:

- Toontastic
- iDiary for Kids
- Pencils, Words & Kids
- Picturebook
- Shake-a-Phrase
- Word Wall
- Word Play
- Spelling Bug

## Online Writing Resources:

- Funbrain  
[www.funbrain.com/words.html](http://www.funbrain.com/words.html)
- PBS Kids  
<http://pbskids.org/games>
- KidsSpell  
[www.kidspell.com](http://www.kidspell.com)
- Giggle Poetry  
[www.gigglepoetry.com](http://www.gigglepoetry.com)



To download the full writing resource visit...  
[www.newtown.k12.ct.us](http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us)

## Supporting Writers at Home

The following are suggestions for ways parents can support their children as writers at home.

### ENCOURAGING THE WRITER WITHIN

#### Kindergarten and Grade 1

Have your child keep a folder of all their writing. This can include pictures, too! As your child begins to write more, they can write the story that goes along with the pictures they have drawn.

#### Grades 2 and Up

Keep a writer's notebook. This is a place to collect ideas and experiment with different writing styles. Give your child opportunities to share their writing. Focus on the content first...handwriting and editing next.

#### Reluctant Writers

Children often resist writing because of the challenges of spelling and punctuation. It is important for these writers to get their ideas down first and then focus on the grammar.

#### Helping Writers Generate Ideas

Keep a list of topics/ideas to write about. Revisit the list often to add to it. Often writing is easiest when you write about something you know.

Brainstorm everything you know about a topic using a "web". This will help organize your child's thinking for a first draft.

## Get Writing!

- Notice and discuss writing in real-world situations (e.g. labels at the grocery store, businesses).
- Have your child help you write the grocery list.
- Write a letter to a family member or friend who lives in another state or even across town!
- Keep a journal of places you visit: include, what you saw, who you were with and when you went!
- Jot down some thinking you are having while you are reading a book and share your thoughts with someone else.
- Reread your writing to add details.
- Share your writing with others.
- Celebrate writing at home by:
  - Submitting a writing piece to a contest
  - Presenting a piece on a webpage
  - Creating a picture book for younger children to read
  - Writing a letter to the editor of the local newspaper
  - Writing a letter to your favorite author
  - Display writing for others to see

