Reflect on your writing process

Most of us have some idea of a writing process in mind when we approach a writing task. It is something we start and have to finish in time. We think of stages that we follow in a sequence from planning, to researching, to writing and then on to editing and submission.

Are these stages really so neat?

Is academic writing cyclical?
Do some reading, write up a section, research further, think some more, edit your draft

Do you always submit your best work?
How many drafts? Think, draft and redo.

Where does it really begin?
With feedback from previous work?

1 planning
2 brainstorm
3 research
4 organising and structuring
5 getting started writing
6 draft
7 edit and polish
8 final check
9 feedback

Do you ask yourself questions and change your mind as you write?
Do you think of reading and researching as separate from writing?
As your line of reasoning takes shape, do you need to revisit your structure?

Do you write in bits?
Longer and more complex assignments are made up of shorter linked sections of writing on sub-questions or themes. These can be drafted as mini essays.

Do you write from the top down?
You know what your big idea is and break it into smaller sections.

Do you write from the bottom up?
You group ideas together and decide what order to put them in as your line of reasoning emerges.