

Reflect on your writing process

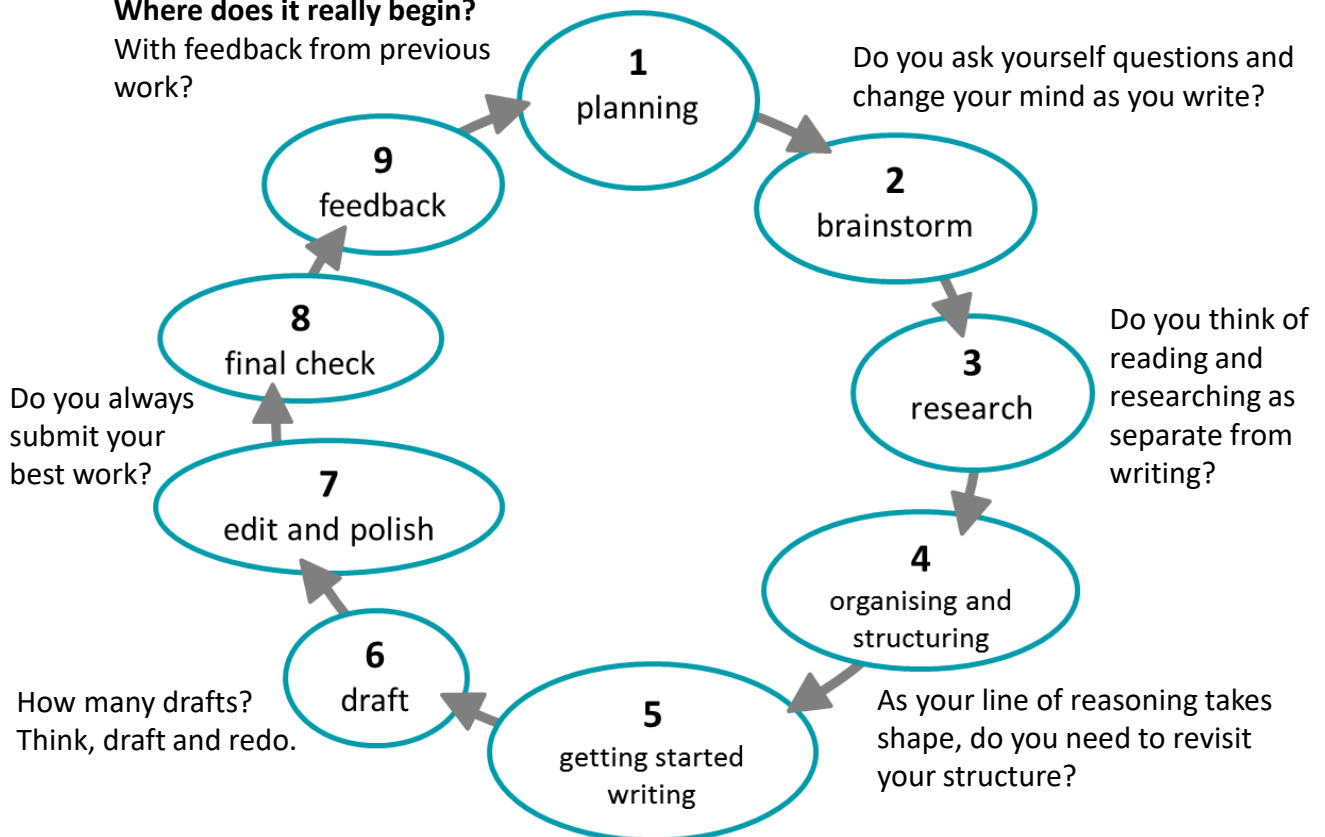
Most of us have some idea of a writing process in mind when we approach a writing task. It is something we start and have to finish in time. We think of stages that we follow in a sequence from planning, to researching, to writing and then on to editing and submission.

Are these stages really so neat?



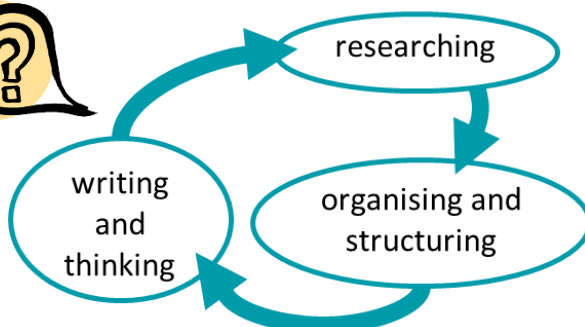
Where does it really begin?

With feedback from previous work?



Is academic writing cyclical?

Do some reading, write up a section, research further, think some more, edit your draft



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.