



# Big Ideas for Growing Writers

Asking yourself the following five questions as you write can help you become a stronger writer. You can also use these questions to guide how you give feedback to peers in your writing community.

## 1. WHY AM I WRITING?

## 2. WHO ARE MY READERS?

## 3. WHAT AM I WRITING?

## 4. HOW AM I PRESENTING IDEAS IN MY WRITING?

## 5. HOW AM I USING THE WRITING PROCESS?

### 1. WHY AM I WRITING?

**Purpose** is the goal you want to accomplish with your writing. Writers make lots of decisions about their writing—such as genre, format, and word choice—based on their specific purpose.

### 2. WHO ARE MY READERS?

Your **audience** is the people who will read your writing. Strong writers understand the needs of their audience and adjust their writing to meet those needs.

### 3. WHAT AM I WRITING?

The writing **task** is the situation that causes you to write. A writing task often includes the steps for creating the written product and the measurements for success.

**Genre** is a category of text with certain features. These features help guide your thinking on how to organize and present ideas in your writing. Common examples of genre are narrative, informational, and argumentative texts. Texts within the same genre share similar features. For example, a main genre feature in argumentative texts is the use of claims that are supported by evidence.

**Form**—or format—is the type of text you create. In today’s digital world, writers have more forms to choose from than ever before. Examples of forms include blogs, emails, essays, infographics, podcasts, presentations, videos, and more.

#### 4. HOW AM I PRESENTING IDEAS IN MY WRITING?

**Development** refers to how you explain your ideas with details, examples, evidence, and commentary in your writing.

**Organization** is the way ideas are arranged in a piece of writing. When ideas are put together in a clear manner, readers will understand your message more easily.

**Style** describes the ways you express your ideas and yourself in your writing. Writers express style through tone (their attitude toward a topic) and voice (how they communicate their personality in the text). Writers create their style through intentional word choice and sentence structure.

**Conventions** are the agreed-upon norms for writing. Conventions include grammar, usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. Using conventions correctly helps make sure you are clearly communicating your messages to your audience.

#### 5. HOW AM I USING THE WRITING PROCESS?

**Collaboration** is the act of working with others. Writers collaborate often. For example, when you brainstorm ideas with partners or request feedback from others on drafts, you are collaborating. Self-regulation is the process of using your mind to oversee activities, shift attention, monitor progress, and manage thoughts and feelings. Self-regulation helps writers to participate in the writing process more efficiently.

**Planning** is the process in which you come up with ideas, organize thoughts, and make decisions about how you want to approach your writing. Writers use the planning process to think more deeply about their purpose and topic, to anticipate the needs of their audience, and to make intentional choices about things like genre and form.

**Goal setting** is the process of identifying a series of small goals you need to accomplish in order to achieve a larger purpose. Writers set goals around lots of things. They could set a goal to find evidence to persuade their readers to change their opinion about a topic. Writers might set another goal to use a specific strategy to manage their emotions if they get frustrated while writing.

**Transcription** refers to spelling, handwriting, and keyboarding. Transcription is how you turn spoken language into written words.

**Revision** is the process of revisiting a piece of writing with a fresh perspective and making changes to improve the piece of writing.

**Self-evaluation** is the examination of your own writing processes and products to determine areas of strength and areas that need improvement.



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