

Good Writing Ahoy!

Mapping Your Writing Process

Background

No two writers work in exactly the same way, but they all follow a process when they write. What writing process do you follow? This activity will help you map out the steps.

To get started, review the five general steps involved in writing.

- **Prewriting:** This step involves all the work you do to prepare to write: reading the assignment, finding a topic, collecting details about your topic, and creating a writing plan.
- **Writing:** This step involves your first attempt at writing. The first draft often follows a general plan outlined during prewriting. A complete first draft includes beginning, middle, and ending parts.
- **Revising:** Revision means making improvements to the first draft. When you revise, you search for parts that are unclear or incomplete. This process may involve adding, deleting, rearranging, or rewriting. Revising does not involve correcting grammar errors. Writers may also share their draft with others to get advice.
- **Editing:** In this step, you look closely for errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and correctness. You also check the format and design.
- **Publishing:** This step involves sharing the finished work with others.



Writers typically **move back and forth between the steps** in their own unique way. The process you follow will differ from your peers, and it will evolve through time.

Now let's get to the activity!

Directions

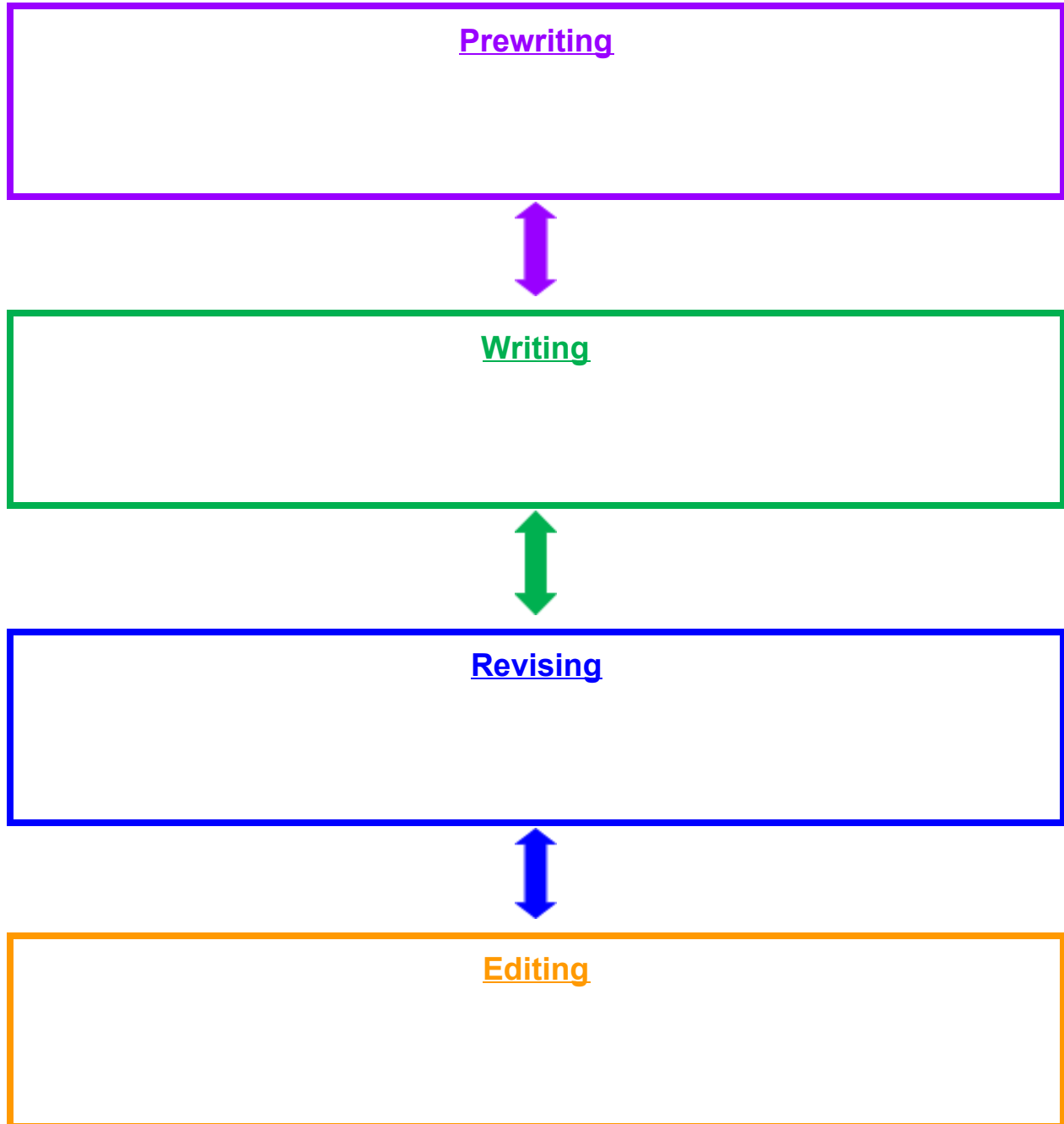
1. Think about a writing project you recently completed.
2. Fill in the blank boxes on the next page to create a flowchart of your process—from start to finish.
3. In the **purple** box, list all the actions you took to prepare to write.
4. In the **green** box, list all the actions you took while writing your first draft. Did you write straight through or make changes as you went along? Did you repeat any prewriting actions? Did you start at the beginning or in the middle? Did you take any breaks?
5. In the **blue** box, list all the actions you took to revise your writing. Did you share your work with a peer? Ask a teacher for help? Reread the draft? Add, delete, or reorder details? Do more research?
6. In the **orange** box, list all the actions you took to edit your writing. Did you fix any spelling errors? Add punctuation? Read your work out loud? Insert a missing word?

My Writing Process

Name: _____

Date: _____

Project Title: _____



Reflection

Review your flowchart.

1. What stands out?
2. What stage involved the most actions—prewriting, writing, revising, or editing?
3. What stage involved the fewest actions?
4. What step of the process did you wish you spent more time on? Why?
5. What change will you make to your process the next time you write something similar?

Enrichment: Exchange your flowchart with a peer. How does your process compare with your peer's? What is something from the peer's process that you could incorporate in your own process?