**The Steps to Compose an Essay**

**Process of building a draft:**

1. Focus on a topic
2. Create a topic sentence
3. Organize pre-writing ideas and examples
4. Develop supporting sentences
5. Restate topic sentence

**Constructing Reader-Centered Writing:**

“Reader-Centered Writing” means that you are expressing your ideas fully and in complete sentences so that the average reader will understand them.

This focus is often employed following the initial prewriting and drafting phase because you must consider how your reader will interpret your writing based on your presentation in the first draft.

**Writer-Centered Writing:**

Writing that is not expressed in complete sentence form, using proper grammar, spelling and punctuation.

This is the first draft of your essay. Essentially, you are throwing your ideas on paper to get from your mind to the page. This can be a fully formed draft or a collection of ideas that you will organize later in your second draft.

**The Stages of the Writing Process:**

In the composing stage, you focus on an aspect of a topic that you believe is manageable.

This means that you are narrowing your focus as you consider your understanding of the topic, your goal in presenting this topic, and ultimately your perspective that you feel your reader should understand.

Then, you organize your relevant ideas into a coherent message.

In this stage of the writing process, you also begin to pay attention to the correct form of your essay. You express your “good ideas” in complete, correct sentences that support, explain or illustrate your topic.

Your goal is to translate your “good ideas” into writing that communicates clearly to your reader, which as you learned previously transitions your writing from “writer-centered writing” to “reader-centered writing.”

**5-Paragraph Essay Elements Application:**

In our Elements of the 5-Paragraph Essay resource, we identify the elements and show how they are organized in your essay. Now, we consider how you should view these elements as you refine your work into “reader-centered writing.”

The following are essay elements and their usage:

**Paragraph:**

a series of sentences that work together to develop one main idea.

**Content:**

the message of a paragraph and the clarifying details used to communicate this message.

**Topic sentences:**

One sentence that states the main idea, or focus, of a paragraph and sets the tone or direction of the writing in that paragraph.

Once the topic is established, the promise to the reader is that the entire paragraph will only focus on that topic.

Place the topic sentence first in a paragraph so readers know immediately what the paragraph will be about and in what direction it is headed.

The topic sentence answers the reader’s unstated question, “What’s the point?”

**The Goals of a Topic Sentence**

1. it states the topic clearly

2. it suggests the direction or tone of the paragraph by revealing the writer’s attitude toward it.

**Supporting Sentences**

After you have developed a clear, specific topic sentence, you need to develop additional sentences that will support, illustrate or explain it. You can draw much of this information from the pre-writing ideas you generated.

The supporting sentences should contain:

1. An explanation of your topic
2. An example that shows your reader what this means
3. Clarification of how the topic and example connect
4. A connection to your thesis:
   1. How does this topic prove your thesis is accurate?

**Complete the draft**

This is the final part of the composing stage of writing. This draft combines your topic sentence with selected reader-centered examples and details in the order you have chosen.

In the final draft, you amplify material from your pre-writing.

When amplifying, you offer additional supporting ideas, all expressed in sentences, to offer further clarification and explanation of key points.