The Writing Cycle

**Prewriting:** Also referred to as rehearsal or brainstorming, this involves writing, talking, or thinking that is generative, open-ended, and meant to help a writer plan for the writing to come. Like all aspects of the writing cycle, this is a highly personalized process varying according to the writer and the specific task at hand.

**Drafting:** The writing produced early in the process when the focus is on content and meaning. It includes composing, revision, and editing. (You will teach the three steps in isolation initially, and then teach the students to use them simultaneously as they work through their piece. For example, if you stop and reread to make sure you got your point across, you may notice a misspelled word and correct it at that moment even though editing was not your intent.)

**Revising** is about making meaning. In this part of the writing cycle students reread and make meaning-based changes in an earlier draft in order to clarify, develop, or sharpen their writing.

**Editing:** the process of rereading to correct spelling, punctuation and grammar

**Publishing:** The point where a piece of writing gets presented to an audience other than the writer. Most things do not get published and things that do get published are published in a variety of ways. The important part is that all students get a chance to publish.

Adapted from *Writing Workshop: The Essential Guide* by Ralph Fletcher and JoAnn Portalupi. glossary.

It is important for all students to know how to access each part of the writing cycle as a tool, but it is unrealistic that all writers will progress through the cycle in the same order and at the same time.
The Writing Process

Prewriting

Polished Draft

Modeling
Sharing

Drafting

Sharing
Modeling
Abandon

Revision

Sharing
Modeling

More Drafting

Modeling
Sharing

Anchor Charts

Editing

Modeling
Sharing
Here are a few of the ways the writing process is utilized in the lessons here.

The Writing Process

- Class book
- Bulletin board
- Word process
- Recopy
- Author celebrations
- Online: voice/thread

Polished Draft

Prewriting
- Listing
- Brainstorming
- Tall
- Sketch/drawing
- Experience/field trip
- Collecting evidence
- Graphic organizer

Sharing
- Modeling

Drafting
- Rough draft
- Short writes
- Collaborative paragraphs

Sharing
- Modeling

Editing
- Counting words in each sentence
- Reading backwards for spelling
- Highlighting first four words in a sentence
- Making paragraph breaks
- Colored pencil = evidence changes

More Drafting
- Connecting short writes
- Applying feedback/advice
- Writing through to the end
- Adding more evidence or detail

Sharing
- Modeling

Revision
- Color highlighting
- Numbering
- Adding
- Deleting
- Rearranging
- Group revision

Sharing
- Modeling

Anchor Charts