

A Writer's Guide to SUCCESS!

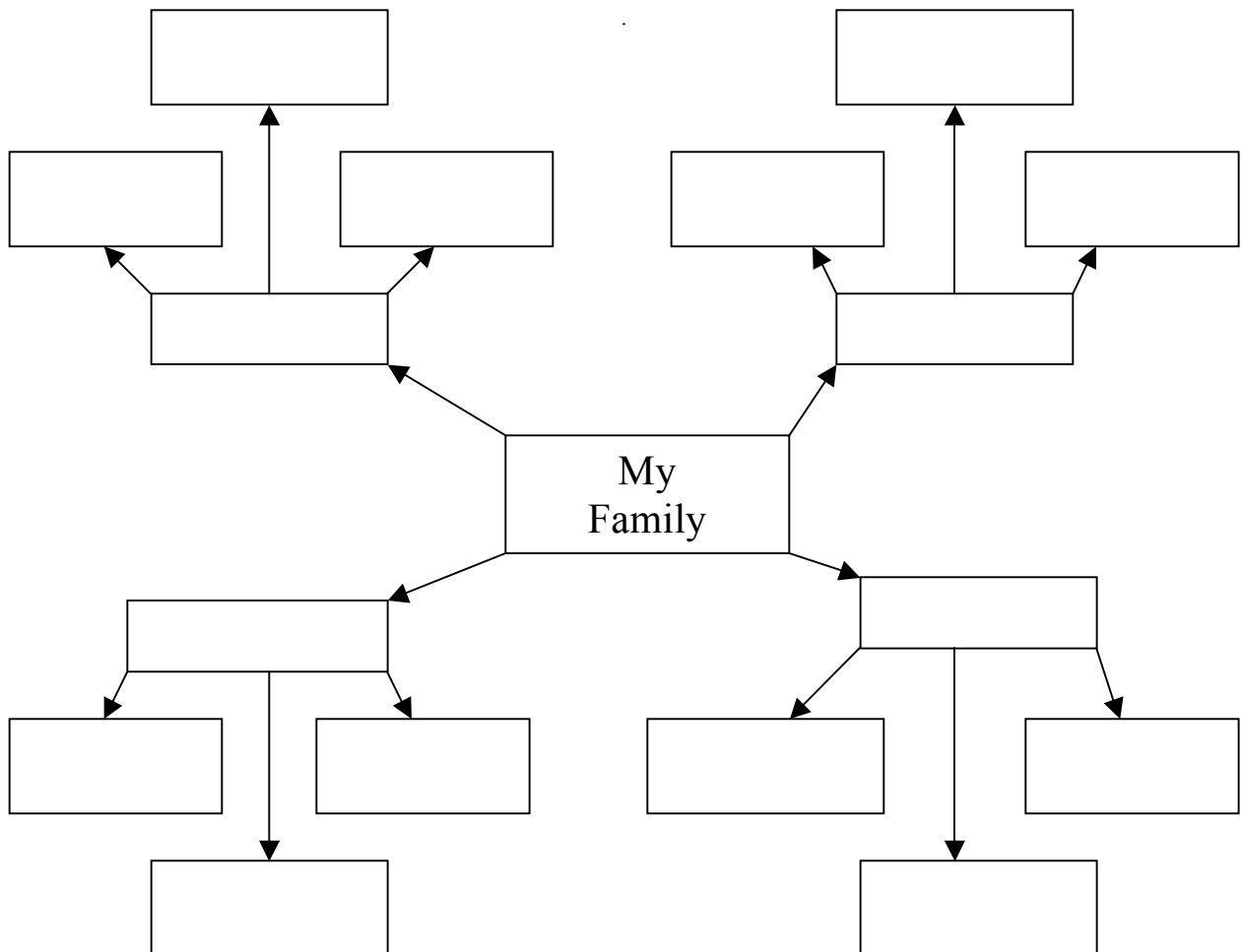


Prewriting

Prewriting helps us choose a seed and brainstorm ideas we can write about. Each time you choose a new seed, select one type of pre-write to help you get your ideas organized. Pre-writes are written in the FRONT of your notebook.

- Webs
- Lists
- Sketches

Webs



Lists

Write down as many focused ideas about a topic as possible. Don't worry about the order of the events.

My Family

- ◇
- ◇
- ◇
- ◇
- ◇
- ◇
- ◇
- ◇
- ◇

Sketches

Sometimes it's easiest to brainstorm by visualizing what happened so that you can retell the story. By drawing a quick sketch and labeling, writers can remember specific details that they can include in their writing.

Writing Genres

All drafts do not need to be written in the narrative format. You can choose another genre to tell your story in a creative way.

- Narrative
- Poem
- Skit
- Play
- Journal Entry/Dear Diary
- News Report
- Biography/Autobiography

Story Starters

- Once upon a time...
- I remember when...
- A long time ago...
- Last summer (week, year, etc.)
- When I was...
- One time I...

Hooks

Hooks are BETTER ways to begin a story. Hooks grab the reader's attention and convince them to continue reading. Usually, hooks describe a small portion of the main idea of the story.

Hooks

- Begin with dialogue (conversation)
- Start with an onomatopoeia (sound word)
- Exclamation—You'll never believe what happened!
 Oh no! It happened again!
 My brother drives me insane!
- Set the scene—The darkness of the night was eerie. I couldn't see a thing, except for the small streak of moonlight coming through the layers of clouds. I felt the moist grass beneath my bare feet. I was "it" & I had to go find everyone in Hide-and-Seek. This *wasn't* my idea of fun!

Transitional Words

Transitional words are great sentence starters. They help the story flow and give the reader a sense of the order the events occur in the story.

- First
- Next
- Then
- After
- Suddenly
- All of a sudden
- Finally

Revising

Revising makes your writing BETTER! Here are some ways to revise:

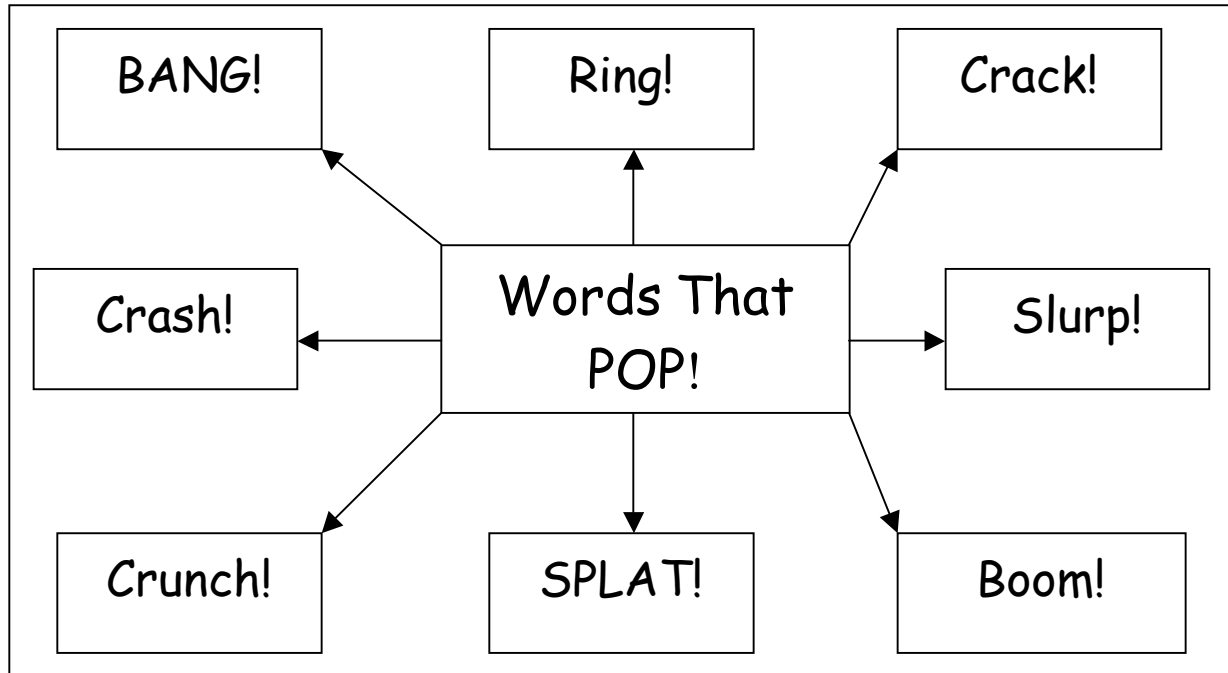
- Use a key to add information
- Cut the story and paste in the missing information
- Use a dark pen to cross off extra information
- Rewrite your draft in a different genre
- Buddy conference
- Re-read your story and ask yourself, "Does this make sense?"

Revising Checklist

- ◇ Did I stick to one topic?
- ◇ Do I have a good hook?
- ◇ I used SPRINKLES
 - KEY to add information
 - Transitional Words
 - Voice
 - Words that POP! (Onomatopoeias)
 - Figurative Language (similes, metaphors, personification, idioms)
 - Power Verbs
 - Show, Don't Tell
- ◇ Do I have a good wrap up?
- ◇ I've reread my story to see if it makes sense.
- ◇ I've made my story BETTER!

Words that POP! (Onomatopoeias)

Onomatopoeias are sound words that help the reader create a better picture in their mind.



Figurative Language

Figurative language helps to create a better picture in the reader's mind.

- Similes
- Metaphors
- Personification
- Idioms
- Onomatopoeias

Similes

Similes are sentences that compare one thing to another using the words *like* or *as*. For example:

- Her shirt was as yellow as the sun.
- My bruise was dark as a plum.
- His sunburn was so bad, he looked like a tomato.

Metaphors

Metaphors are comparisons that **DO NOT** use the words *like* or *as*. Instead, they use *was*, *is*, *are*, or *were*. For example:

- He **was** a sly tiger sneaking up on his little sister.
- That catcher **is** a diamond in the rough
- Her hands **were** bright pink from the cold air.
- Her feet **were** a throbbing bass drum after the box fell on them.

Personification

Personification gives human traits to non-human things. Animals talking in a story can be personification too.

- Harry's cape was clapping in the wind.
- The wind was whistling creepy sounds through my window last night.
- The chair barked as it was jerked back suddenly from my desk.

Idioms

An idiom is often known as a "play on words." Some examples of idioms are:

- Two peas in a pod
- Cat got your tongue?

Show, Don't Tell

Show, don't tell means writing descriptions of actions or emotions, without actually telling the reader the word that says what the character is doing or feeling.

Show, Don't Tell Using Emotions

Try to guess the emotion that the writer is trying to convey, without actually writing the word down.

- I clenched my fists tightly and my nails dug into my palms. Immediately I stamped my feet and turned my bottom lip out. My forehead crinkled up & I had to do everything not to scream out loud!
- My heart felt like it was going to burst. I couldn't stop smiling. I threw my fists into the air & I jumped up and down. I got a new bike!

Show, Don't Tell Using Actions

Rather than write the sentences, *I was very angry* or *I was so excited*, writers can create a better picture in the reader's mind by describing the physical actions.

- My heart was pounding. I pumped my fists up and down as I felt my sneakers pound the pavement.
- My breathing slowed down. I felt my chest relax and my eyelids grew heavy until I couldn't keep them open any longer.

Voice

Voice is your true inner thoughts written out on paper. For example:

- Man! He drives me absolutely nuts! Why does Bobby ALWAYS get his way?
- Jackpot! I knew my extra good behavior would pay off
- Junie B. Jones

Wrap-Ups

Wrap-ups remind the reader about what they have just read. They are the conclusion sentence(s) of a writing piece.

- So now you know...
- Remember...
- As you can see...
-
-
-

Editing

Editing is another important part of the writing process. While revising makes your writing better, editing makes your writing as close to perfect as you can make it. In order to do your best editing independently, use the editing checklist below.

Editing Checklist

1. I began each sentence with a **capital** (uppercase) letter.
2. I used **capital** letters for name of people, places, and proper nouns.
3. I have reread my work to make sure I have not left out any words that I intended to write.
4. I have placed **punctuation marks** (periods, commas, question marks, and exclamation points) in places where they belong.
5. I have found misspelled words and tried **spelling** them in the margin.
6. I have checked to see if I used the **correct homophone** and did not use **slang**.
 - *their, there, they're *to, too, two
 - *your, you're *then, than
 - *its, it's *could have
 - *used to *because
7. I have indented each new paragraph as my thoughts shifted.
8. I have checked to make sure my sentences are not **too long**. If they were, I have either rephrased them or split them into more than one sentence.
9. I have edited my piece to the **best of my ability**.

Apostrophes

Contractions

can not—can't
would have—would've

Possessives

Sarah's book
the teacher's classroom

Illustrations-A writer's illustrations must always match the text.

Dedication Page-Many writers create stories inspired by events that occurred in their lives. Sometimes, it is nice for them to dedicate their work to a particular person, which the story is about.

Cover-The cover page should have a large title and matching illustration. Even though we have been taught not to "judge a book by its cover," one that appeals to the eye can never hurt!

For a new piece, we begin the process again! 😊