



## WRITING AS AN ITERATIVE PROCESS

I used to think that I had to complete a perfect paper when I first sat down to write. That mindset made me defensive and unresponsive to critical feedback because I thought it didn't need any changes since it was already perfect. This was detrimental to my improvement as a writer because incorporating feedback is crucial to making sure the audience understands what I am saying. Now, I embrace an iterative writing process. Each iteration is a complete draft that improves the previous draft.

**The rough draft** is all about the major structure of the paper and the supporting points for my thesis. If I have to stop here for any reason, my ideas are intact and documented with citations for future reference:

1. Gather research
2. Create working thesis
3. Develop high-level outline of argument
- 4. Get feedback**
5. Revise thesis
6. Deeper review of research
7. Add bullet points to outline from research (with citations)
- 8. Get feedback**

**Draft one** converts the outline into prose. The paper is not excellent, but it is logically sound and human-readable:

9. Convert top levels of outline into descriptive headings
10. Create topic sentences from lower level outline and paragraphs from bullet points
11. Write conclusion
12. Revise thesis
13. Write introduction
- 14. Get feedback**

**Draft two** focuses on flow which facilitates the connection of ideas:

15. Include introduction and conclusion connecting to thesis for each major section
16. Add transitions between paragraphs



17. Write abstract

**18. Get feedback**

**Draft three** applies polish:

19. Read aloud for grammatical mistakes

20. Check spelling

21. Apply formal style guidelines

This is my process (there are many others), and I often stop here. I can also keep going: get feedback, make changes, repeat. The advantages of this iterative process are (1) priceless feedback and (2) a complete, if not pretty, representation of ideas after each iteration.

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