

A spiral-bound notebook with a light brown, textured cover. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text is centered on the page.

The Writing Process: An Overview

by
Tarasine A. Buck

Warm-Up Writing

Task:

- ② Create something with the lump of clay on your desk.
- ② When you are finished, take 10 minutes to write about what you created and why.

Questions for Discussion

- ① Look at the ceramic jar. What steps would you need to go through to create something like this from a lump of clay?
- ① How do you think this is similar to writing an essay?

The Writing Process: Pre-Writing I

by

Tarasine A. Buck

Pre-Writing Techniques

How do you organize your ideas when you are preparing to write?

@ Brainstorming

@ Discussing

@ Free Writing

@ Looping

@ Listing

@ Outlining

@ Charting

@ Mapping

Brainstorming

- ② "Brainstorming" means thinking of as many ideas as possible in a short amount of time.
- ② Write down your ideas so that you don't forget them.
- ② Write down *everything* that comes to your mind; don't worry about sorting out "good" and "bad" ideas.
- ② Don't worry about spelling or grammar.

Example of Brainstorming

Topic: What would I do with one million dollars?

Travel--Europe, Asia, S. America

Pay off our house

Share--give a scholarship, donate to charities

Buy a lot of books!

Invest/save and let the interest grow

Topics for Practice

@ Take 5 minutes to brainstorm ideas about the following question:

@ What are some of the most memorable experiences of your life?

Discussing

- @ "Discussing" is similar to brainstorming, but you do it with a partner or group.
- @ Assign one person to write down the ideas.
- @ Write down *everything* that group members say related to the topic; don't worry about sorting out "good" and "bad" ideas.
- @ Don't worry about spelling or grammar.

Topics for Practice

- ② Take 5 minutes to discuss the following question with a partner or group:
 - ② What do you think are the most important events in a person's life? (starting school, getting married, etc.) Why are they important?

Free Writing

- @ "Free Writing" is like pouring all of your thoughts onto paper.
- @ Don't take your pen off the page; keep writing for the entire time.
- @ If you don't know what to write, write "I don't know what to write" until you do.
- @ Don't try to sort "good" and "bad" ideas.
- @ Don't worry about spelling and grammar.

Example of Free Writing

Topic: Describe the most beautiful place you've seen.

I remember climbing to the top of Smolenskii cathedral in autumn, the leaves of St. Petersburg on fire, like an ocean of gold red leaving me breathless with its depth. Stretching out for miles and miles it was all I could see and suddenly the grime and sorrow of the city was drowned with beauty, God's beauty, God's love for everyone, his artistic touch meant just for me at this moment.

Topics for Practice

- ① Free write for 5 minutes on the following topic:
 - ② What is the most frightening experience you have ever had?

Looping

- ② "Looping" begins with "free writing." It can help you narrow a topic.
- ② Choose the best idea, word, or phrase from what you wrote; underline or circle it.
- ② Take that idea and begin free writing again.
- ② Repeat the process at least one more time.
- ② Follow all the rules for free writing.

Example of Looping

Topic: Describe the most beautiful place you've seen.

I remember climbing to the top of Smolenskii cathedral in autumn, the leaves of St. Petersburg on fire, like an ocean of gold red leaving me breathless with its depth. Stretching out for miles and miles it was all I could see and suddenly the grime and sorrow of the city was drowned with beauty, God's beauty, God's love for everyone, his artistic touch meant just for me at this moment.

Example of Looping

(from circled part on previous slide)

We had seen hate rejection and fear in that city, dirt and grime and sorrow where people didn't know how clean a place could be, never seen a different world. On top of the cathedral I saw the city as it could be, should be, as God sees its potential, baptized in gold-red fire of autumn leaves, burning away the outer shell of hardness, burning through to the hearts of people with truth and happiness which they did not know, had never seen a different world. I cried, beauty and overwhelmingness and I must come down again.

Topics for Practice

- ① Look at what you wrote during the freewriting exercise. Choose the best idea, word, or phrase from what you wrote. Write about this for 5 more minutes.
- ① Repeat this step one more time.

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The Writing Process: Pre-Writing II

by

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Warm-Up Writing (1)

- @ Think about the pre-writing techniques we discussed yesterday (brainstorming, discussing, free writing, and looping).
- @ Which of these techniques was easiest for you?
- @ Which was the best for organizing your ideas?

Warm-Up Writing

- @ What was it like for you to come to the U.S. for the first time?
- @ Take 10 minutes to write about your answer.

Questions for Review

- @ What are the steps in the writing process?
- @ What pre-writing techniques did we practice yesterday?

Looping

- @ "Looping" begins with "free writing." It can help you narrow a topic.
- @ Choose the best idea, word, or phrase from what you wrote; underline or circle it.
- @ Take that idea and begin free writing again.
- @ Repeat the process at least one more time.
- @ Follow all the rules for free writing.

Example of Looping

Topic: Describe your favorite season and why you like it.

Spring is daffodils blooming bright and bursting with yellow sunshine in their petals they make me want to sing with joy. The grass is green and thick and I love walking barefoot feeling each blade against my skin. The sky is blue with soft white clouds, I like to lay on my back and see pictures in them, not feeling hurried or rushed but free.

Example of Looping

(from circled part on previous slide)

I love to take my time in spring, not to worry about deadlines or appointments or assignments due, just wandering through the beauty of nature. I love to lie on my back in the grass and just soak in everything around me, the sky, the sun, the scent of the flowers, the warmth of the air. As a child I felt very free to spend time enjoying the spring, feeling the joy of new life bubbling through my spirit. I remember feeling immensely happy, turning my eyes to heaven and shouting for joy.

Topics for Practice

- ② Look at what you wrote for your warm-up writing. Choose the best idea, word, or phrase from what you wrote. Write about this for 5 more minutes.
- ② Repeat this step one more time.

Listing

- @ "Listing" is similar to "brainstorming." The idea is to write down as many things as possible.
- @ Use single words or phrases, not sentences.
- @ Listing works well for descriptive-type writing.
- @ Don't worry about spelling or sorting out "good" and "bad" ideas.

Example List

Topic: Describe your favorite room in the house/apartment where you live.

Kitchen/Dining Area

@ White tile, walls, countertops

@ Flood of sunlight

@ Healthy plants

@ Sturdy pine furniture

@ Glass door--view of lawn and trees

Topics for Practice

- ① Take 5 minutes to practice listing in response to the following topic:
 - ② Describe your bedroom in the house you grew up in.

Outlining

- @ "Outlining" is a more organized form of pre-writing than the others we discussed.
- @ It can be used after you have generated ideas through brainstorming, free writing, or other pre-writing techniques.
- @ It works well for structured types of writing such as essays.
- @ You can use complete sentences, but you don't have to.

Example Outline

I. Introduction: Internet "dating" has advantages and disadvantages.

II. Advantages

a) meet people around the world

b) not based on appearance

III. Disadvantages

a) can you trust them?

b) may be too far away to meet in person

IV. Conclusion: Some success stories, but too risky

Topics for Practice

- Ⓢ Spend about 5 minutes creating an outline based on the following topic:
 - Ⓢ Do you agree with the English Only policy at the ELC? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this policy?

Charting

- @ Sometimes you will want to organize your ideas for writing in a chart.
- @ Charting works very well for comparison/contrast writing or examining advantages and disadvantages.
- @ You can use many different kinds of charts, depending on your topic and the kind of writing you are doing.

Example Chart

	Living with Family	Living with Roommates
Advantages	May not pay rent Meals Different ages	More independence Social interaction
Disadvantages	Less independence Rules	Rent Cooking/Shopping Noise

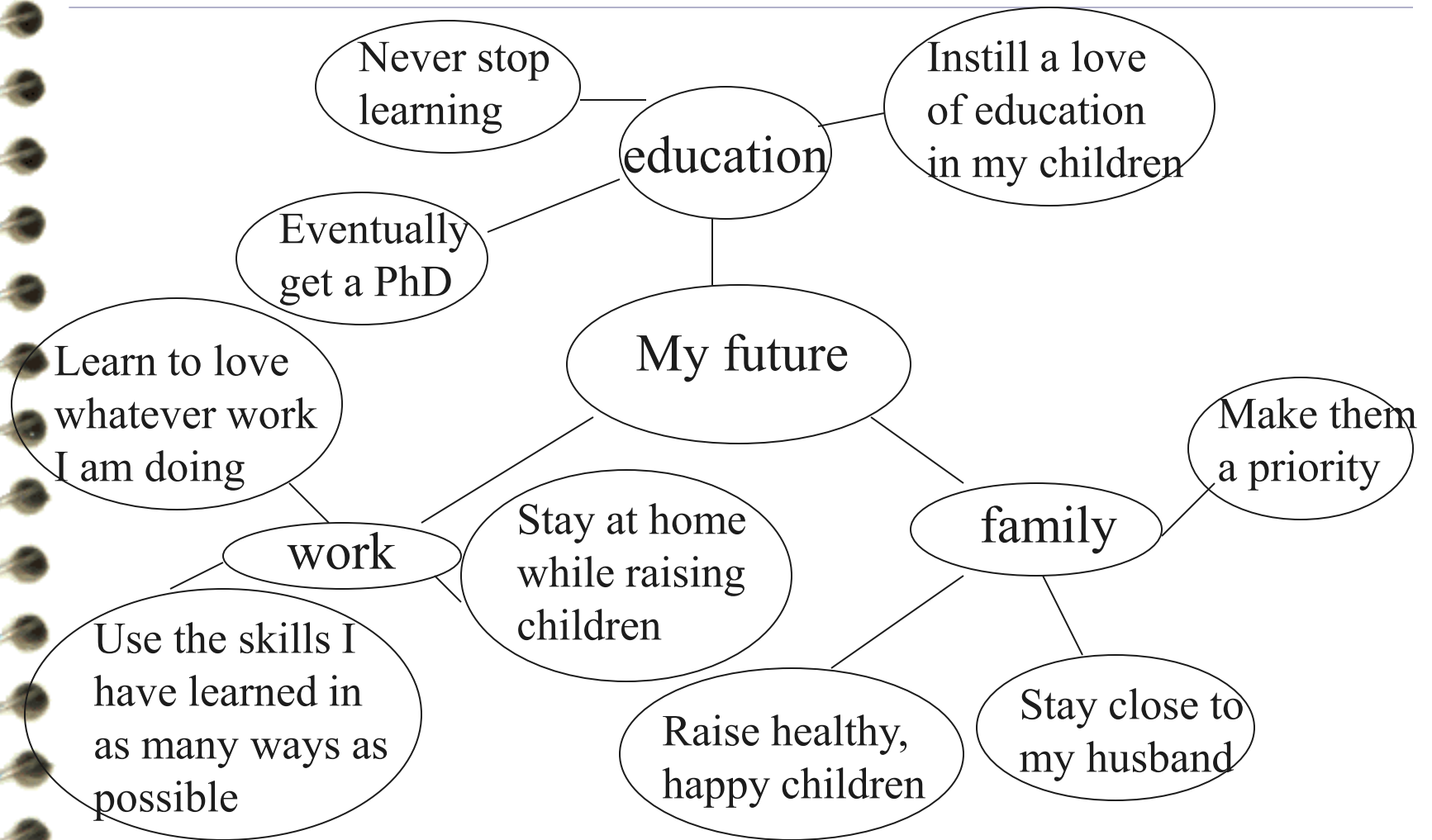
Topics for Practice

- ① Draw a chart to organize your ideas about the following topic:
 - ② Compare the similarities and differences between your city and Provo.

Mapping

- @ "Mapping," sometimes called "semantic/idea mapping" or "webbing," is another way to organize your ideas.
- @ Start with your topic in the center, and branch out from there with related ideas.
- @ Use words and phrases, not complete sentences.

Example Map



Topics for Practice

- ④ Draw a map to organize your ideas about the following topic:
 - ④ What are some things that you have learned in your life so far?