



Introduction to Writing

Learning Project 1

Writing the Rough Draft



This Learning Project focuses on beginning the writing process. To begin writing, the writer must know what the topic on which he or she is writing will be, and, equally importantly, must have something to say about that topic. Writing is also more readily accomplished when it is separated from the editing process. To this end, writers are encouraged to develop and organize ideas rather than worry about correct usage at this point in the process.

GED Test writing topics are very broad and inherently personal. That is, the test-taker can think about experiences he or she has had, skills he or she possesses, or ideas on broad themes that everyone has considered. It is important that the test-taker read the subject, or prompt, carefully. While a wide range of possible development for a subject is allowed, the essay must be on the topic given in the test book, and not some other, misread subject.

Pre-writing strategies focus on generating details for the essay. In *GED Writing and You*, we provide a number of idea generating strategies: mindmapping, list making, brainstorming, and free writing. Your writers can choose among them for the strategy that works the most effectively for them.

Once writers have gathered their details, they must begin arranging them in a logical, easily understood manner. Organization is the area where most beginning writers struggle. Ideas must flow in a logical manner, so that the reader will understand the writer's point. It is important to know that the GED Test Readers look for organization, focus, and development in the essays they read. They know, because of the time constraints placed upon the test-takers, that 45 minutes is enough time to write a barely-polished rough draft.

In Inquiry Activity 1-4, learners will actually write their rough drafts. By this time, working through the pre-writing strategies carefully, your learners will begin to understand how the writing process works.

The entire Learning Project can be repeated several times, each time using a different topic for the students to write on. The pre-writing activities will allow your learners the time and awareness to begin to develop a writing fluency.