Myths

- Writers have special talents
- Inspiration is needed
- Writing happens all at once.
- Good writers use outlines
- Good writers know all grammar rules.
Writing Process

- **Preparation** - read, research or talk about issue.
- **Brainstorming ideas** - select ideas
- **Organizing** - notes, outlines, materials, thesis
- **Drafting** - write your paper
- **Incubation** - put paper aside, do something else and come back to it with new ideas.
- **Revision** - ideas are organized and follow thesis
- **Edit** - Give to peers for positive criticism.
- **Final Draft** - Instructor will give you a grade/feedback.
Preparation

- Brainstorm topics/ideas
- Freewrite on topic
- Exchange ideas/get input-evaluate values and beliefs of audience
- Active discussion of issue with opposite point of view
- Research books, internet, friends-Why are views threatening to others
Exploration and Organization

- Finding a Focus
  - Treeing down
  - Clustering
Main idea and Purpose

Crafting a Thesis statement
- one sentence in first paragraph
- have a substantial point to make
- make it an assertion that sparks interest
- manageable topic
Organization

Choose pattern of Organization
- Description
- Comparison/Contrast
- Cause and effect
- Narration/process
- Definition
- Classification

Creating an Outline
- Working List
- Scratch Outline
- formal sentence

Idea Mapping
- Web
- Tree Diagram
- Venn Diagram
Drafting

- Lower your expectations
- Do not aim for perfection
- Rehearse ideas orally-create outline of discussion
- Use classical argument diagram
- Explore purpose (Task 1-10)
Revision

- Rebuild them - Make substantial changes
- Move block of texts to new locations
- You may throw away first draft and start fresh
- Use hard-copy double-space
- Use arrows, stars, deletions and insertions
- Make changes into computer
- Think of the audience
Revising for Audience

- Audience-based reasons
- Look at obstacles or constraints
- What is your tone?
- Are you appealing to the emotions?
Incubation

This is the point when you have run out of ideas and need to put your paper aside and come back to it with a fresh and clearer understanding.
Peer Review-Revise

- REVISE
  - Ask classmates where your argument is not persuasive or where tone is offensive
- Doubts
- Reactions and advice
- Effective organization, development, and style
Edit

- Read out loud
- Review handbook for grammar exercises
- Spellcheck
Final Draft

- MLA format
- 12 font
- double space
- Works Cited in alphabetical order
- Cite sources with text