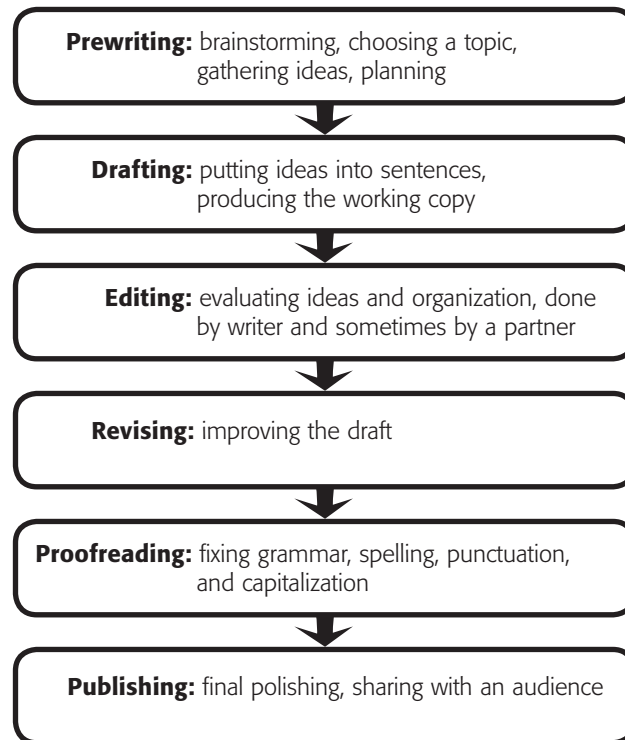


Dear Parent or Guardian,

This year in language arts, we are using the grammar and writing program *Voyages in English*. This is the time for students to develop the habits of good writers. The diagram below sketches the writing process used by professional writers and taught by *Voyages in English*.



Looking at your child's work, you may find a number of mistakes in early drafts. This is normal. Early in the writing process, writers focus on capturing ideas and putting them into words. Later in the process, writers fix mistakes in grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

You can help your child by serving as an outside reader. The checklists in your child's book explain what to look for. While you can help by reading and by pointing out mistakes, it is strongly suggested that your child solve problems and correct mistakes independently. Learning how to improve a draft is key to becoming a good writer.

As the year progresses, you will see growth in your child's writing and communication skills.

Sincerely,