

What is drafting?

To create a *really* successful piece of writing, you need to go through a few stages before you get to the final, finished article!

Writing stages:



- look carefully at the question/task
- create a mindmap/notes from your initial response to the task
- write a first draft
- put it to one side for a few hours/days
- re-read the question/task, then go back to your draft and see how it can be improved
- perfect the draft and create a final copy.

Before you write your final copy, you might need to go back and re-visit some of the earlier stages. This isn't a punishment; it's an opportunity to add more polish to your work!

So, what is 'drafting'?

Is it...

- an opportunity to get feedback on a piece of writing before producing a final version?
- a chance to write freely without being overly worried about your work being assessed?
- a rough version of a piece of writing?
- looking critically at a piece of writing and making changes to improve it?

Answer - drafting is **all** of the above!



When you draft, check:

- that the content of your writing is appropriate and that you have answered the question/completed the task you were set
- word order (syntax) and continuity. Ensure your work is logical and easy to follow.
- paragraphs have been used to organise your writing
- that you have used interesting, appropriate vocabulary. You could try using a thesaurus and add a word you haven't used before to your writing
- that you have used a variety of sentence types which let you show off your punctuation skills
- that your spelling, punctuation and grammar are accurate.

Hint:

It's often easier to check the 'big' things like content first, then work your way down to looking at spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Never be happy with your first draft!