

# Elements of Good Writing

SPA

# SPA = Subject, Purpose, Audience

- Subject – topic that you know well and understand
- Purpose – a clear reason to write
- Audience – who are your readers

# Subject

Be specific and focused

Don't be too general

Entertainment

The Movies

Movie History

Early History

Silent film era

Purpose

To:

Entertain

Inform

Persuade

# Audience

Envision your readers

What expressions or culture are meaningful to them?

What would they enjoy reading?

How can you persuade them?

# The Writing Process

1. Prewriting – thinking about the topic
2. Planning – organizing material
3. Drafting – write your article, script, book  
(1<sup>st</sup> time)
4. Revising – Improve focus, content,  
organization
5. Editing – Check grammar, spelling, etc.

# Prewriting

1. Brainstorming – free thinking, grouping
2. Clustering – general to specific topic
3. Freewriting – finding a focus
4. Keeping a Journal –record of daily thoughts and activities

# Freewriting (finding a focus)

1. Write topic at top of page
2. Start writing
3. Write as much as you can and as fast as you can for 10 minutes
4. Don't stop for any reason. Don't worry if your mind wanders away from your original idea; let your ideas flow
5. If you can't think of anything, write "my mind is blank, my mind is blank" over and over again until a new thought comes into your mind.



6. Don't worry about mistakes. Just keep writing.  
You can go back later and edit
7. Read your freewriting and see if there are any  
ideas you can develop into a paragraph.

# Drafting Paragraphs

1. State your point  
topic sentence
2. Support your point

# Topic Sentences

1. Usually the first sentence of a paragraph.

2. Controls all the other sentences

States the topic

Identifies and controlling idea

Express writer's attitude about topic