

Nancy Sommers Videos

Composing Process

00:05

[TITLE] Composing Process

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["Nancy Sommers, Author" onscreen] SOMMERS: When I think about the composing process, well, actually I think about composing processes because I never want to assume that the process I use, or that there is one composing process.

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["Eric Taslim, English Major" onscreen] TASLIM: First you have your outline, draft, peer review and editing, and then your final draft, and then after that you still have to revise it. And then you have one more final draft.

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[Sommers onscreen] SOMMERS: I want to make sure that students find the process that is the most comfortable to them, or that seems the most natural to them. So outlining, for instance. There are some students

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[Shots of RANKIN outlining from a book] SOMMERS: for whom outlining is a very important technique and strategy.

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RANKIN: When I outline

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["Alex Rankin, English major" onscreen] RANKIN: everything's more organized. I can write down a sentence, then write down another sentence and write down another sentence, and I'll realize what I was getting at when I go back to the sentence up top.

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[Sommers onscreen] SOMMERS: For many students, techniques such as brainstorming, free writing, anything that just allows a student, a writer, to be able to have a lot of ideas, and to see these ideas without the pressure of putting it into sentences and paragraphs.

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[Rankin onscreen] RANKIN: It comes more easier when it's like that. I can see that, and I'm not necessarily working on one topic sentence. I'm not focused on just one thing, and then I can go back to it. It's kind of, mmm, it's kind of giving myself a break from one sentence and working on the other one.

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[Sommers onscreen] SOMMERS: Sometimes you're going to be stuck. You're writing a draft and you're stuck, and you don't know what to do. Put the draft aside and then do some brainstorming or free writing. I always want to say to students, it isn't this linear kind of process in which, first you do your brainstorming, and then you write your draft, then you revise. That all these techniques can be used and these methods can be used at various points, and especially points at which you get stuck.