

Drafting (Wilderness Waste) Practice Activities

Got Laughter?

Have you laughed hard at a friend's joke lately, or had a fit of uncontrollable giggles? Besides making you feel great, there is real evidence that laughter is your "best medicine." A hearty laugh has surprising effects on your body and mind. Laughter leads to lowered stress hormones, which helps your immune system ward off viruses more effectively. Who knew that doubling over with laughter could assist your body in fighting the flu? Laughter also lowers your blood pressure, and gives your heart and even abdominal muscles a workout. Because of the hiccupping and coughing you may do when you laugh intensely, your respiratory system is cleared as well.

After your next session of knee slapping, you may notice others laughing, too. Experts believe that laughter has another amazing effect—it's contagious!

Drafting Activity Part 1

First, read the passage "Got Laughter?"

Next, take a second to look at the "Expanded List" or "Organizational Web" you produced in the Prewriting Activity and create an initial rough draft essay of this topic. Or, feel free to write a rough draft about a funny story that happened to you or someone you know. What is something that got you laughing?

You can begin writing this draft right here or on a separate document you create.

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Drafting begins when a writer gets their initial thoughts, ideas, and information about a topic down on paper and into a format that a reader can understand. As you draft, work to **keep the audience in mind**.

The goal of drafting is to get the content or information down on paper so the writer can later start to shape, organize, and focus the writing during the revision stage.

Drafting is almost never "one and done." A writer begins with an initial first draft or rough draft and then moves into multiple drafts throughout the writing process.

Avoid the urge to mix drafting your work with revising and editing. They are separate steps in the writing process.

Remember, writers should not worry about whether they are making grammatical, spelling, or other errors at this point. **Rough drafts are meant to be rough.** There will be time later for making things beautiful!

Now that you've taken the time to come up with your initial draft, it is time to review what you have written through the improvement lens. Go back through your draft and begin to look for areas that your writing could be strengthened or improved. Remember to read through the eyes of your audience and look for:

- Areas that need focus or clarity.
- Areas to add more information.
- Points in the draft where more description can enrich the writing.
- Places where you have used good adjectives, adverbs and other descriptive language. Areas where you could make possible changes and additions of word choices.
- Your favorite part and other well-stated parts. Ask yourself, what made these parts so good?