

thinking ALoud

Making Sense of Literacy

VIDEO SCRIPT

Wilderness Waste

*The Writing Process
(drafting)*



Scene	Full Transcript
1	<p>Ashley: Nate, look there's a deer!</p> <p>Nate: Oh, wow. This is a great trail. How'd you find it?</p>
2	<p>Ashley: I started planning when you mentioned you wanted to go on a hike. The last time I volunteered at the Nature Center I asked the park ranger for a recommendation. He said this was the best trail for seeing wildlife.</p>
3	<p>Nate: Now that's what bugs me. Some people ruin everything by leaving their garbage all over the place.</p> <p>Ashley: I know it. Is it so hard to take out of the park what you bring in?</p> <p>Nate: Most of its plastic water bottles! This is exactly what I'm trying to write about for the editorial but I sure am struggling with it.</p> <p>Ashley: Maybe I can help. First let's get this mess picked up and into the bin. We don't want to leave trash lying around. It attracts the bears!</p> <p>Nate: Bears?</p>
4	<p>Narrator: Hold that thought! Will Nate be mistaken for bear bait? Will their hike help Nate and Ashley become better writers? View <i>The Plastic Plight</i> and then join the Knowledge Seekers as they head down the path of drafting in this episode of THINKING ALOUD!</p>
5	<p>Introduction</p>
6	<p>Narrator: As Nate and Ashley start to police the park for plastic, it's important to remember that the ultimate goal of writing is to convey the author's message and to create a work that is meaningful to the reader.</p> <p>One of the first steps to reaching this goal is the process of drafting. Drafting involves getting the author's initial thoughts and ideas on paper and into a format that the reader can understand. It's done after the author has researched and collected ideas and information about the subject. Skillful authors understand that there are several keys to effective drafting.</p> <p>Drafting starts with getting something down on paper. It's only then that the author has something to work with and develop.</p> <p>Just write. Try to get the essence of what needs to be said, and avoid the urge to mix drafting your work with revising. They're separate steps in the writing process.</p> <p>Drafting is almost never one and done. While the product of the process is an initial or rough draft, it's rarely the only or final version. Clear writing, a piece closest to what the author wants, will eventually evolve with perseverance.</p>

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6 (continued)	<p>Narrator: With persistence, and weaving descriptive language, colorful examples, metaphors, analogies and interesting details into each draft, these techniques often help the reader to see what the author sees.</p> <p>Skillful authors know that “showing” is better than “telling” because it puts the reader right there.</p> <p>It’s also important to remember that drafting should be done with the audience in mind. Authors should consider the interests, motivation, education, and experiences of those for whom they are writing and use that information as a guide during drafting.</p> <p>Many skilful authors draft and then spend time and space away from what they’ve written. The distance often provides an objective view, allowing writers to see what was actually written. Sometimes walking away from a piece clarifies what was really intended.</p> <p>Finally, drafting is often best done with input and feedback. Many authors participate in writing conferences or discussions during which other writers offer praise, support, and suggestions. Writing conferences are an invaluable tool for strengthening drafts.</p> <p>Though every author has his or her own unique writing style, they’re all committed to drafting.</p> <p>Watch as we glimpse into Nate’s drafting process.</p>
7	<p>Nate: There, that’s the last of it. Maybe I should throw my notebook in there, too. I’ve been working on an editorial for the school newspaper. I met with Turner and he suggested I write an article about plastic water bottle usage at the school. I was really excited, but now I’m not so sure.</p> <p>Ashley: I’m sure what you have so far is good. Why don’t you tell me about how you wrote it?</p> <p>Nate: <i>How</i> I wrote? Don’t you mean <i>what</i> I wrote?</p> <p>Ashley: No, <i>how</i>. The process you use is just as important as the words you use.</p> <p>Nate: Really? O.K. Well, I started with a lot of research and then I stared at a blank screen.</p> <p>Ashley: Keep going.</p> <p>Nate: O.K. Like I said, I started with interviews and research...</p>
8	<p>Voice Over Nate: I have a ton of information on water bottle usage. I know I want to write something for everyone in my class, but I have been sitting here for most of the evening and still don’t have anything to show for it. If I can just get something written, anything, then I will have something to work with.</p> <p><i>A mountain of plastic waste is glutting our school’s campus.</i></p> <p>Hey that’s not bad! “A mountain of plastic waste” indicates a huge amount and the word “glutting” kind of sets the tone for disgust and prepares them for what’s about to come.</p>

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9	<p>Ashley: That's a strong first sentence. The lead of an editorial needs to capture the reader and state the issue. You hinted that it is a problem at school.</p> <p>Nate: I tried to expand on it in the next sentence with something students could relate to.</p>
10	<p>Voice Over There's plastic waste all over the school, in the halls and cafeteria. There's a lot in the teachers' lounge, but no student's go in there.</p> <p>Nate: I know!</p> <p><i>Waste containers overflow following athletic practices and events which, when added to landfills, intensifies a much greater problem on our campus and on our planet.</i></p>
11	<p>Ashley: Where did you take your writing from there?</p> <p>Nate: Well, I started and stopped a lot, but then I recalled hearing that I need to focus on what I want to convey to the students who will read the article.</p>
12	<p>Voice Over Kids at school need to understand the urgency of this issue. I had no idea how big the problem is. It would be awesome if I could motivate just a few of them to take action!</p> <p>Nate: My drafting really took off for a while. Everything just seemed to flow.</p>
13	<p>Voice Over <i>Empty bottles are ultimately dumped into landfills or oceans, adding to the deadly damage of marine life in areas called the Plastic Vortex.</i></p> <p>Nate: I wrote for a couple hours, but then I just hit a wall and everything seemed to grind to a halt.</p>
14	<p>Ashley: That's normal. It happens to the best of us. It happened to Hemingway and Thoreau. It will happen to you.</p>
15	<p>Voice Over In the Writer's Workshop I attended, they encouraged us to spend time away from our writing to improve it. A lot of times I go for a walk, call a friend, or even set it aside for a couple days to get a fresh perspective. You'd be amazed at how much it helps.</p>
16	<p>Ashley: You're doing great, and this is only your first draft.</p> <p>Nate: What do you mean first draft? I've already written about everything I researched. I thought I was almost finished!</p>
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19	<p>Voice Over Ashley: Drafting's never one and one. Most writers go through several drafts. It is part of the process of achieving the goal to convey your message and create something meaningful.</p>
20	<p>Nate: I guess it's back to the drawing board. Thanks for talking through this with me. The more I meet with writers like you and Turner, the more my writing seems to improve.</p> <p>Ashley: It's okay to ask for help.</p>
21	<p>Voice Over Ashley: The instructors at the Writer's Workshop always encourage writers to get together to share ideas, troubleshoot, and add more detail. My group members always have good suggestions based on works they've written and challenges they've faced. Since they're writers too, it helps!</p>
22	<p>Nate: I see what you mean.</p> <p>Ashley: It's just like the process I went through while planning this hike.</p>
23	<p>Voice Over Ashley: I've done lots of hiking and knew you wanted to see a lot of wildlife, so I drafted a plan for a hike that I thought you would enjoy. However, I stopped by the ranger's station to get his opinion. He told me to call the ranger station to clear up any questions along the way.</p>
24	<p>Nate: Like what to do if we see any bears?</p> <p>Ashley: There aren't any bears, maybe mountain lions. You're welcome to join us at the Writer's Workshop anytime.</p>
25	<p>Narrator: As Nate and Ashley's hike through drafting draws to a close, it's important for you to remember to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan ahead and do your research• Be aware of your audience when writing• Consider the most effective way to structure your piece• Set aside time for your initial and subsequent drafts• Use writing conferences to share ideas, troubleshoot, and improve your work. <p>Keep drafting and keep THINKING ALOUD!</p>