



## 5-Step Writing Process

Giving the assignment, “write a paragraph” or “write an essay,” is not enough for students with language-based learning disabilities. Most students will skip the very important pre-writing tasks that make writing a logical and thorough composition much easier. The steps of the process need to be explicitly taught, modeled, and practiced with guidance.

<b>STEP 1</b>	<b><u>BRAINSTORM</u> ABOUT THE TOPIC.</b> List as many ideas and examples as you can <i>in no particular order</i> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Productive brainstorming requires students to have enough background knowledge of a topic to produce language and ideas.</li></ul>
<b>STEP 2</b>	<b><u>ORGANIZE</u> YOUR IDEAS.</b> Create an outline or graphic organizer that sequences the best ideas from your brainstorm. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If the assignment is an essay, categorize your brainstorm into subtopics for each paragraph of the essay.</li><li>• Additionally, choose from your brainstorm or generate relevant information to support your sub-topics.</li></ul>
<b>STEP 3</b>	<b><u>WRITE A ROUGH DRAFT.</u></b> Using your outline or graphic organizer as a guide, write your paragraph or essay using complete sentences. <i>This draft does not have to be perfect, but should be complete.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Many students with LBLD benefit from using paragraph templates that cue them to structure their discourse into paragraphs with topic sentences, supports, and concluding sentences.</li></ul>
<b>STEP 4</b>	<b><u>PROOFREAD</u> AND EDIT YOUR ROUGH DRAFT.</b> Look for mistakes in word choice, grammar, spelling, organization, clarity, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This stage is easier for students if the teacher provides a specific checklist of proofreading tasks to complete (underline your topic sentence, change 5 words to add more description, etc.).</li></ul>
<b>STEP 5</b>	<b><u>MAKE CORRECTIONS TO CREATE A FINAL DRAFT.</u></b> This final product should reflect all changes noted in the proofreading stage.