

An aerial night photograph of a city, likely San Francisco, showing a dense grid of lights reflecting on the water. The city is nestled in a valley, with dark mountains visible in the background under a twilight sky. A thin crescent moon is visible in the upper center of the frame.

So, what's the big deal?

Editorial: Prewriting 3

Community = Audience

When we have something to say to our community, we have to take these things into consideration. This is paying attention to our audience, and it's one of the key things to consider in any type of writing.

When we know what our audience is like and who they are, we can make decisions about how we communicate our points.

How we Talk to our Community

One of the things we have to consider in practicing writing is how we communicate with our community. We have to take into account a number of things in deciding how to write to them:

- How formal should our writing be?
- What kinds of words or jargon do they know and use?
- What are their major concerns and goals?
- What are their preconceptions or biases?
- What are our preconceptions and biases?
- What ways do we express things that may not be appropriate to our intended audience?

You are Audience

Since you are a member of the community you're writing to, you probably know a number of things about your audience. So one of the first steps is to think about what you know about yourself.

- How do you expect someone in that publication to address you?
- What biases and preconceptions do you have?
- What approaches would most convince you?
- What position or place in the community do you have and does that make a difference in how others hear you?

Putting it Together

In order to put this together, you have to take some time and think about all your found out.

- How will you state your main point?
- What are the different points you'll make to back that up or illustrate it?
- Are there any opposing views you need to address?
- What stories or images can you use to connect to all of this?

What's your point?

Start by thinking about your overall point.

Taking a moment and writing that out clearly will help you make some of the next decisions and give you a start on your thesis.

If you only had one sentence to get your idea across, what would you say? Write that out and you have a draft of your thesis.

Then move on to decide how you'll articulate your supporting points:

Sample Prewriting: Please Pick Me

Main points:

- It's not neighborly
- Pet waste makes our backyards, parks, and streets hazardous places
- Inconsiderate to workers who have to clean it up
- It can lead to water contamination
- It's illegal

Sample Prewriting: Let the Preschoolers Play

Main points:

- Adults, including parents, preschool staff and bureaucrats, are scared.
- Ten years ago, a spate of studies affirmed the importance of unstructured play for children.
- Parents and preschools express concern only about what their children learn, not how happily they play
- fun physical exercise that prepares children for active, healthy lives

Now it's time to do that Prewriting Form

For this prewriting, use the following form to help you organize your thoughts for this essay.

Find your thesis: What is the issue, and what do you want to be done about it or why is it so important? Write that out in one sentence. That should go at the end of your first paragraph.

Develop your body paragraphs

Reason: Write down one reason you think we should do this, or one main point that shows why it's important:

Evidence (copy out a quote, fact, or statistic from your research, or give an example from an interview/discussion with someone. Make sure to attribute source with a clear signal phrase [WR pp 382+]):

Discussion: What does that evidence or example show about how we need to take care of this issue or why it's so important?



Conclusion: Overall, why is this so important, how will it make our community better, and what can we do to help this happen?



Prewriting 3

As you can see, this will help you outline your main points. You can either print out the document I've provided or you can use it to guide you in terms of content and development.

See your schedule for the link to the form.