

Case Background / Writing

Sit in a group with the other people who have the same number card as you, and meet them. Find out their names (and pronunciation) and something about where they come from (country, state, college, neighborhood, major).

The Writing Process: I will discuss briefly each of the four steps in the writing process. Be ready to summarize my thoughts about your assigned step to your group. As a group, what ideas or suggestions do you have about each step? What has been successful for you?

Planning (hearts)

Drafting (diamonds)

Revising (clubs)

Editing (spades)

After doing these steps, are you done?

Now we'll continue taking questions about the case in progress. Remember that the goal will be to understand the background well enough to write 3–5 sentences describing the background, so take good notes!

Again, here's the initial information you got. "I'm a veterinary student studying coagulation abnormalities in dogs with septic peritonitis. Can you tell me what my sample size should be? Thanks."

Name: _____

Tell me about what kind of writing you've done previous to this course. I'm curious both about writing you may have done in English and in your native language, as well as any non-academic writing. Is expressing your thoughts in writing something you are comfortable with?

Please leave this sheet, your nametag, and your playing card on the tables by the door. The other handouts are for you to keep; this sheet will not be returned except by request.

Homework 1 (due Monday February 1):

Write a document of your choice using the following steps, and reflect on the process.

1. Spend at least 10 minutes planning the document. Use a single sheet of paper, with your name at the top.
2. Draft your document. Don't revise yet. Print using double-spacing.
3. Revise your document by writing on the printed draft by hand.
4. Make these changes to the draft and print the revision, again using double-spacing.
5. Edit your document, again by writing on the printed draft. (If by some miracle you find no edits, write that on there so I know you looked.)
6. Then reflect on the experience, writing at least five sentences. Was thinking of writing as a process with steps helpful?

The document should be at least 10 sentences and 100 words (but no more than one page double-spaced). A few ideas for documents are...

- Tell me something about yourself. For example, why did you choose statistics, or Minnesota? What was your first day in Minnesota like? What's your favorite place to be? What are your goals in coming to graduate school, or in life?
- Convince a reader why statistics is an interesting field to study.
- Write a letter to a University or elected official about an issue of interest.
- Learn about something interesting (but not something mathematical!) and tell me about it.

You should turn in these four pages stapled together

1. your planning,
2. your first draft with revision notes,
3. your revised draft with edits, and
4. your reflection.

There's no need for a final draft.