

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Nail the Narrative: Recursive Writing Strategy for College Prose

Synthesize rhetorical theory and evaluate structural choices as you navigate the non-linear complexities of advanced academic and creative composition.

1. A writer practicing 'Recursive Drafting' finds that their secondary research contradicts their initial thesis mid-chapter. According to cognitive models of writing, what is the most productive next step?

Answer: B) Incorporate the contradiction as a nuance, returning to the planning phase to adjust the theoretical framework.

Advanced writing is recursive; discovering new info often necessitates a loop back to the planning/ideation phase to ensure the argument utilizes synthesis rather than ignoring complexity.

2. In the context of the 'Global Revision' stage, a writer should prioritize sentence-level syntax and typographical accuracy over structural reorganization and argumentative strength.

Answer: B) False

Global revision focuses on 'macro' issues like logical flow, evidence, and hierarchy of ideas. Sentence-level 'micro' corrections are reserved for the editing and proofreading stages.

3. When a scholar seeks to enter 'The Burkean Parlor' of academic discourse, the ____ stage is most critical for identifying gaps in existing literature before contributing an original claim.

Answer: B) Heuristic/Planning

The planning stage involves heuristics (discovery techniques) and contextual research, which allow a writer to understand the ongoing conversation before drafting a response.

4. Consider James Joyce's use of stream-of-consciousness. In a critical analysis of 'Ulysses,' which revision strategy would best address a lack of 'thematic cohesion' between disjointed narrative sections?

Answer: A) Applying a 'Reverse Outline' to map the underlying logic of the draft.

A reverse outline allows the writer to see what they actually wrote versus what they planned, making it an essential tool for evaluating thematic and structural unity in complex texts.

5. The 'Drafting' stage of the writing process is most effective when the writer strictly adheres to a 'Direct-to-Final' approach, minimizing the need for later revision.

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Answer: B) False

Productive drafting often involves 'shitty first drafts' (as Anne Lamott calls them), where the focus is on generative thought rather than perfection, expecting significant later revision.

6. During the 'Editing' phase of a legal brief, a writer realizes their tone is overly emotive rather than objective. This requires an evaluation of:

Answer: C) Rhetorical Stance and Diction

Editing involves refining style and tone (diction) to suit the specific rhetorical situation or genre expectations, such as the objectivity required in legal writing.

7. In Peter Elbow's concept of 'Freewriting,' the primary goal is to bypass the ____ during the initial drafting phase to encourage the flow of ideas.

Answer: A) Internal Censor

Freewriting is designed to silence the 'internal censor'—the part of the brain that edits for correctness prematurely—and focus on raw generation.

8. Which scenario best exemplifies the 'Publishing' stage for a doctoral candidate specializing in Post-Colonial Literature?

Answer: A) Submitting a revised manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal like 'PMLA'.

In academia, publishing entails making the work public to a specific scholarly community, usually through a process of peer review and formal distribution.

9. Peer Review is a form of formative assessment that occurs during the revision stage to provide the writer with external perspectives on clarity and impact.

Answer: A) True

Peer review is an essential pedagogical and professional tool used during revision to identify where a reader's interpretation diverges from the writer's intent.

10. If a writer is analyzing the 'Affordances' of a digital medium versus a print medium, they are making decisions specifically related to the ____ stage.

Answer: C) Publishing/Delivery

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The mode of delivery (print vs. digital) dictates the 'affordances' (what the medium allows, like hyperlinks vs. static text) and is a key consideration in the final stages of the process.