



# Four Stages of Writing – ARISE Youth Projects

## 1 Stage 1: The Muse/Madman

You will begin to compose an essay today in four stages. There will be other classes over the next six weeks.

The theme is: **What did we do for our ARISE youth project?**

On the papers provided list as many words and phrases as come to mind. The sky's the limit. Keep adding to the list. Any new idea that crops up when you write one, just add it on.

- If you get stuck with one direction, try another. Fill the paper. Don't stop to correct anything. Just keep going. If you can't think of anything, write "I don't know" until another idea pops up.
- What are some props, visuals, sounds, music and video clips you could use to stimulate ideas?
- What are the things that block you from writing? Do the opposite.

We will be taping your papers up front and doing more work with your ideas.

## 2 Stage 2: The Architect

Each square is a box in which you will drop every word or phrase you wrote in the first activity. Name each box with a word, a phrase or a sentence.

1

2

2a

2b

3

### **3 Stage 3: The Carpenter**

Take each space below and write out 3 to 5 sentences for that box using the ideas from the first activity.

¶ 1

¶ 2

¶ 2a

¶ 2b

¶ 3

### **4 Stage 4: The Judge**

Now copy all your paragraphs and do final editing: check for punctuation, spelling and grammar.

# Four Stages of Writing – Muse/Madman, Architect, Carpenter and Judge

## 1 Stage 1: The Muse/Madman

- Brainstorming
- Brain-dumping
- Unfettered writing/recording
- Research
- Random online searches
- Looking for triggers to some mother-lode of ideas/words within you

## 2 Stage 2: The Architect

- Organizing
- Structuring
- Sketching/building a framework
- The three to five boxes that are your key parts/pieces: Beginning, Middle, End

## 3 Stage 3: The Carpenter

- Hammering the sentence boards on the frame
- Stringing the words into sentences
- Filling in all the spaces in the structure

## 4 Stage 4: The Judge

- Editing
- revising
- Rewriting
- Checking grammar, spelling, usage, etc.

### Resources

[The Writers' Trust of Canada – Writers' Workshop Blog](#)

[Madman, Architect, Carpenter, Judge: Roles and the Writing Process, by Betty S. Flowers](#)

[Feedback and the Four Stages of Writing: Madman, Architect, Carpenter, Judge, by Jeffrey Caminsky](#)

[Madman, Architect, Carpenter, Judge: Unlocking Our Personas to Get Unstuck, by Ed Batista](#)



## Intercultural Development Research Association

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The Intercultural Development Research Association is an independent, non-profit organization. Our mission is to achieve equal educational opportunity for every child through strong public schools that prepare all students to access and succeed in college. IDRA strengthens and transforms public education by providing dynamic training; useful research, evaluation, and frameworks for action; timely policy analyses; and innovative materials and programs.

We are committed to the IDRA valuing philosophy, respecting the knowledge and skills of the individuals we work with and build on the strengths of the students and parents in their schools.

