

QUESTIONING AS WE WRITE

Do you view writing as a **passive activity**? In other words, you write **whatever** comes to your mind, sentence by sentence, until you have written the **assigned length**.

In order to produce quality writing, you must:

- Choose a **subject** or **idea** of importance.
- Decide on something **important** to say about it.
- **Explain** or **elaborate** your basic meaning.
- Construct **examples** that will help readers **connect** what you are saying to **events** and **experiences** in their lives.
- Construct one or more **analogies** and/or **metaphors** that will help readers connect what you are writing about with something similar in their lives.

Then, as you write, join other skilled writers who question their writing as they write.

Question to **understand**; question to **evaluate** what you are writing; question to **bring important ideas** into your thinking. Become a **good writer** by asking the following questions while you write.

- **Why** am I writing this? What is my **purpose**? What do I want the reader to **come away** with?
- Is there some part of what I have written that **I don't really understand**? Am I repeating what I have heard people say without ever having thought through the meaning?
- If something I have written is **vague**, how can I make it **clearer** or **more precise**?
- Do I **understand** the meaning of the **key words** that I have used, or do I need to look them up in the dictionary?
- Am I using any words in **special** or **unusual** ways? Have I explained **special meanings** to the reader?
- Am I sure that what I have said is **accurate**? Do I need to **qualify** anything?
- Am I **clear** about my main point and **why** I think it is important?
- Do I know what **question** my paragraph answers?
- Do I need to spend **more time** investigating my topic or issue? Do I need **more information**?