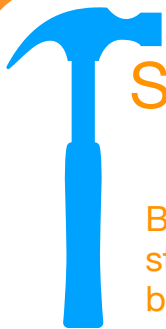


Writing is Like . . .

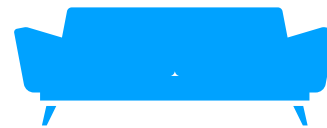
Building a House.



Stage 1: Building

Building a house requires a strong foundation, organized blueprint, and sturdy materials.

Writing a paper requires a strong purpose, clear organization, and meaningful supporting details.



Stage 2: Decorating

Finishing a house requires a sense of style, attention to details, and lots of cleaning up.



Finishing a paper also requires a sense of style, attention to details, and lots of cleaning up.

Don't hang curtains on a wall you might knock down.

In other words, write your paper and make sure it's the way you want it before you start editing it. Just like we don't put carpet down in a house that doesn't have a roof yet, you shouldn't spend time editing and proofreading a paragraph that you might not even keep. Build first; decorate later.

Gather materials as you go.

Houses are built in stages. Not all of the materials have to be on site on the first day of construction. You might not have all of your ideas developed when you start writing. Write what you have and other ideas will follow.

Writing is Like . . .



Baking a Cake.



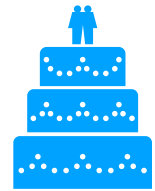
Stage 1:

Baking a cake requires good ingredients, a recipe to follow, and the right baking time and temperature.

Writing a paper requires meaningful ideas, a solid plan, and the right organization.



Stage 2:



Finishing a cake requires a sense of style, attention to details, and lots of repairs to mistakes and imperfections.



Finishing a paper also requires a sense of style, attention to details, and lots of repairs to mistakes or imperfections.

Don't decorate a cake you haven't baked.

You wouldn't start icing a cake and then put it in the oven because your icing would just melt away. In fact, you have to let a cake cool before you start decorating. You should let your paper "cool" before you start editing, too. Don't proofread until you are sure your paper has all the ideas you

Don't be afraid to make a mess!

Baking is messy! Batter spills, frosting stains fingertips, and new recipes get created when a baker has to substitute an ingredient and try something new. Writing is messy, too. Just like the mess of the baking is hidden by the finished cake, your paper's final form might hide a messy start.