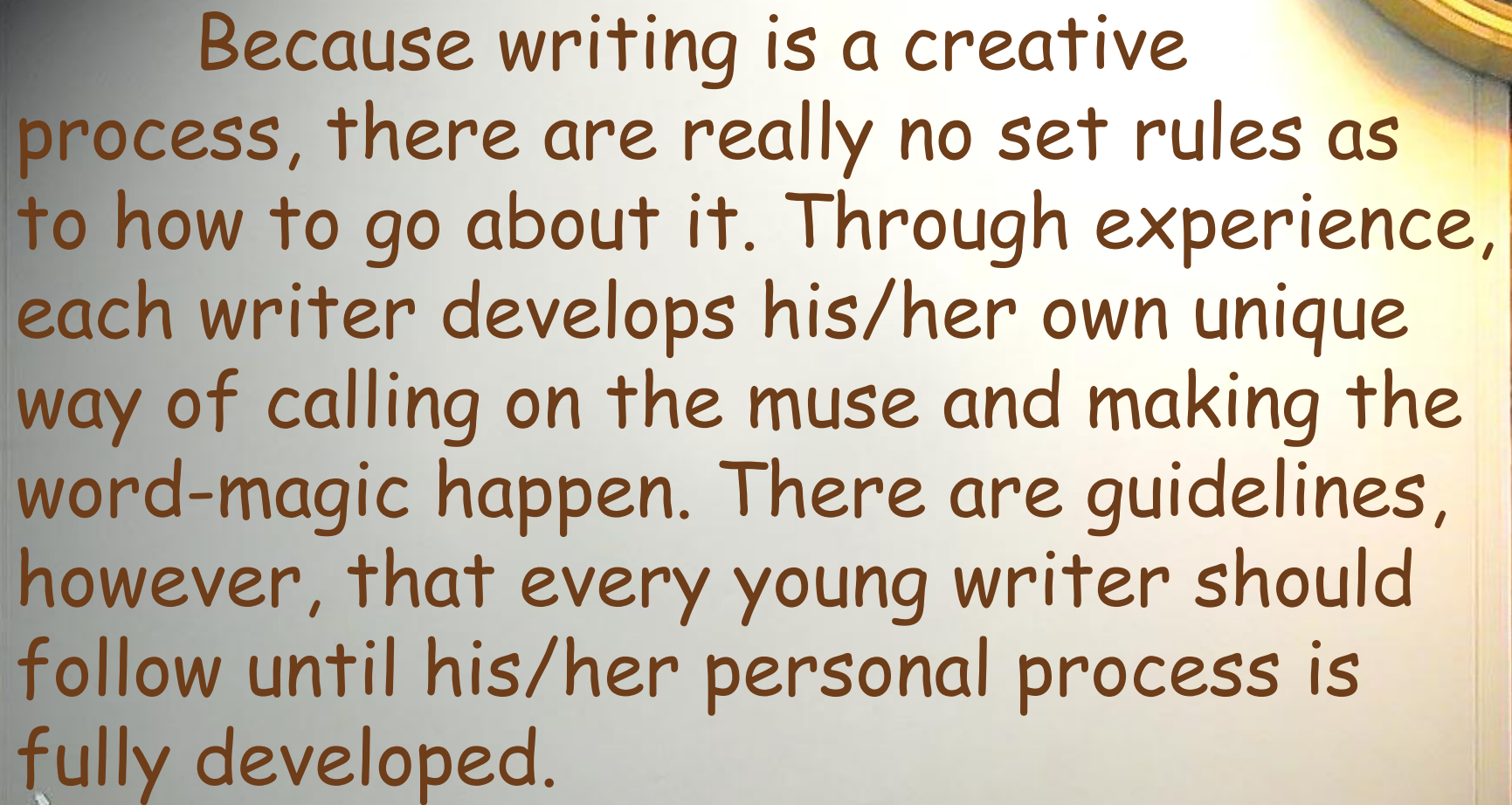


A dark wood desk with a blue pen and a glass. The pen is in the bottom left corner, and the glass is in the top right corner. The text is centered on the desk.

*The Writing
Process*



Because writing is a creative process, there are really no set rules as to how to go about it. Through experience, each writer develops his/her own unique way of calling on the muse and making the word-magic happen. There are guidelines, however, that every young writer should follow until his/her personal process is fully developed.

But first let's let Brenda Ueland,
writing teacher extraordinaire,
answer the question:

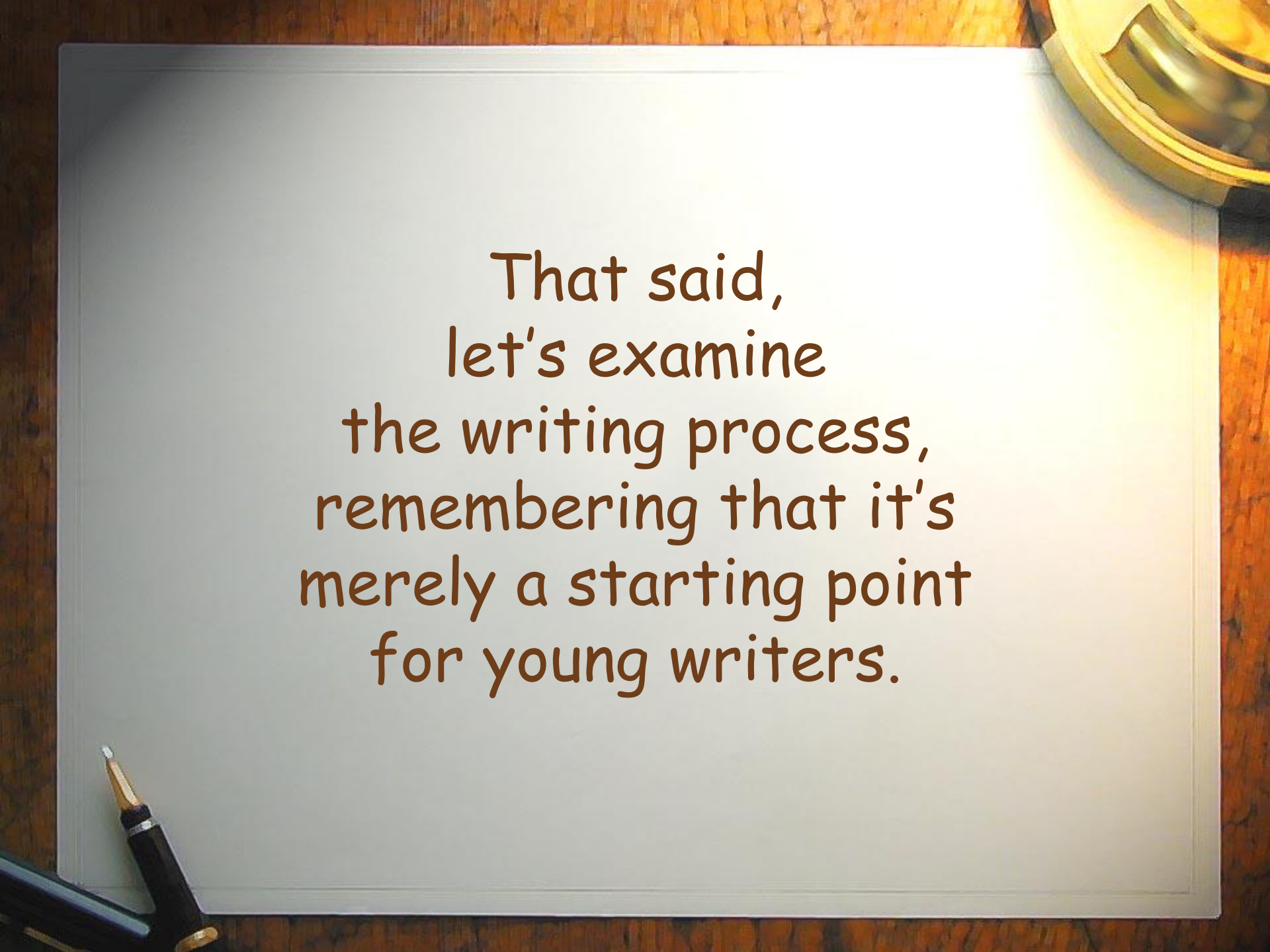
Why write?

A wooden desk with a white sheet of paper. In the top right corner, there is a brass fastener. In the bottom left corner, there is a fountain pen with a black and gold nib. The text is written in a brown, serif font on the paper.

"Why should we all use our creative power to write or paint, or play music, or whatever it tells us to do?"

"Because there is nothing that makes people so generous, joyful, lively, bold, and compassionate, so indifferent to fighting and the accumulation of objects and money. Because the best way to know the Truth or Beauty is to try to express it. And what is the purpose of existence Here or Yonder but to discover truth and beauty and express it, i.e., share it with others?"

From *If You Want to Write* by Brenda Ueland

A top-down view of a wooden desk. A white sheet of paper is centered on the desk. In the bottom-left corner, a black fountain pen with a gold nib is visible. In the top-right corner, a brass fastener is partially visible. The text is written in a brown, serif font on the paper.

That said,
let's examine
the writing process,
remembering that it's
merely a starting point
for young writers.

The Writing Process:

Brainstorm

Plan

Compose the First Draft

Revise, Revise, Revise

Obtain Feedback

Revise/Edit

Write a Final Copy

Share Your Work

Brainstorm:

To brainstorm simply means to gather ideas about the subject you're writing about. You can do this by yourself or with the help of others and by creating a list or a web or any other type of graphic organizer. Some writers prefer to draw pictures or collect images from magazines or the Internet.

Plan:

It's useful and advisable to plan your essay or story before you begin to write. You shouldn't spend too much time on this part of the process, however. Think of a writing plan as an artist's sketch. The purpose is to quickly organize your main ideas into some type of structure and identify a possible ending or conclusion.

Compose the First Draft:

Follow your plan and refer to your brainstorming, but write freely. Don't worry about making mistakes. If new ideas spring up in your mind, write them down. Don't hold back; be generous with your words. This step is referred to as the "rough" draft, so don't worry about your paper being messy. Do skip lines to make it easier to revise.

Revise, Revise, Revise:

This is perhaps the most important step of the writing process. Yes, it takes a bit of thinking, but the results are worth it. Compare it to an artist applying all his/her knowledge of color, form, light, etc. to his/her work-in-progress. Similarly, when writers revise their work, they apply their knowledge of sentence structure, elements of fiction, rhetorical devices, etc. to their first draft. >>



The three main stages of the revision process are:

- 1- Revise by **adding** artful adjectives, specific and sensory details, transitions, and rhetorical devices (review MR. HOT AND SPICY).
- 2- Revise by **replacing** weak verbs, bland adjectives, trite expressions, etc. with more powerful choices.
- 3- Revise by **deleting** needless words and ideas/passages that don't work or don't belong.

Obtain Feedback:

Read your paper aloud to a trusted friend, classmate, or family member, and ask for specific feedback. You'll be surprised at the mistakes you overlooked and at the questions or comments your reader will have. Listen to your reader, but stay true to your artistic vision. Make only those changes that resonate with you and that you know will make your writing better.

Revise/Edit:

Make final revisions and proofread/edit your paper for grammar, mechanics, and spelling mistakes.

Write a Final Copy:

Your final copy should be neat and error free (to the best of your ability). If possible, type your paper and add visuals. Your presentation should match your purpose, audience, tone, and mode.

Share Your Work:

Writing is a form of communication. If you've been true to yourself (to your ideas, opinions, and artistic vision), then there's no reason for not sharing your writing with the world. Be proud of your hard work!



Bibliography/Works Cited

- Kemper, Dave, Patrick Sebranek, and Verne Meyer. *Write Source*.
Wilmington: Great Source Education Group, 2005.
- Ueland, Brenda. *If You Want to Write*.
Saint Paul: Graywolf Press. 2007.

A wooden desk with a white notepad, a fountain pen, and a brass fastener. The notepad is the central focus, with text written on it. The pen is in the bottom left corner, and the fastener is in the top right corner.

This PowerPoint presentation

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