Writing the draft

Drafts are first attempts to get thoughts and ideas about a topic down on paper. Although writers know why they are writing and who they are writing for, they may not be absolutely sure what they’re going to say. They will have some thoughts and ideas they have planned, but many new ideas will unfold as writers engage in draft writing. The home tutor can assist the draft writing process by:

- encouraging the student to think of the draft as raw material. At first attempt the ideas are written down. Additional thoughts and details can be added later during the refining process of revising and editing
- encouraging the student not to interrupt his/her flow of thought when spelling is difficult, but to have a go at spelling the word by writing down the parts known
- reminding the student to leave a space between lines or to write on every second line
- insisting that the student’s writing be legible so that it can be read easily during the editing and proofreading process. A draft does not have to be messy!
- allowing time for the student to write down ideas independently using the notes from the planning stage and assisting when required
- encouraging the student to re-read writing when a draft is completed.