Outline of Writing Process

I) Pre-writing

A. Brainstorm

1. What NOT to do

a. edit

b. put in order

2. Goals of brainstorming –

a. to generate LOTS of ideas

b. to generate NEW and INTERESTING ideas

B. Provisional claim

C. Outline (plan, or structure)

D. Do I have enough material? Can a I prove my thesis?

1. If NOT – go back to brainstorming

2. If so, review your outline and see if it’s in a good order

II) Drafting – writing the essay….

A. Drafts can include mistakes that you will later correct

B. The more drafts you do, the better

III) Editing

A. This is correcting errors

B. You might use help here, WARC or the instructor, even peer review, but you are your best editor, and it is neither WARC nor your instructor’s job to correct all of your errors

IV) Rewriting

A. Rewrite your essay with corrections

B. You may have to or want to edit and rewrite many times over.

N.B. (Latin: *nota bene*; ‘a good note,’ i.e. something important:

SAVE YOUR FILES ON AN EXTERNAL DEVICE, a flash drive, an external hard drive, ‘the cloud’

Do it often – I do it almost every other day… on more than one device.

Losing your files because your computer crashes is NOT an acceptable excuse….