

Translanguaging Strategies for the Writing Process

If you are a multilingual person (someone who uses two or more languages), you have the benefit of using your range of linguistic knowledge and skills through translanguaging, or thinking, processing, writing, and meaning-making across languages. When writing, translanguaging offers a variety of benefits for understanding, developing, and expressing ideas. If you know more than one language, here are some strategies that can support your writing process.

Reading and Understanding Assignment Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annotate assignment guidelines in your first language.• Talk with a classmate who knows your first language about the assignment.• Circle unfamiliar words and ideas. Discuss these words and ideas with a Writing Center consultant or friend.
Inventing & Pre-writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annotate assignment guidelines in your first language.• Create a brainstorm or mind map in a language you feel comfortable working in.• Write an outline in any language you know.• Translate and talk through an example paper in English to generate ideas.• Freewrite in any language and then talk about what you wrote.• Share ideas aloud instead of writing.
Conducting Research & Citing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search OSU library databases or Google Scholar in your first language.• Review a Wikipedia page for new subject matter in your first language to form background knowledge.• When citing material from another language in your reference list, translate titles into English. If you are quoting from a language other than English, you can indicate your translation like this: “Roses are red” (translated from Polish).
Drafting (more on page 2)	<p>If you are stuck trying to express an idea...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Come back to it—keep writing.

Drafting (Continued)

- *Try writing your thoughts down in your first language.* Then, talk to a Writing Center consultant or friend about what you wrote to figure out how to express that idea in English.
- *Go “around” the idea.* If you can’t find the exact words you are looking for, use the words you do know in English. The outcome may not be as precise as you would like, but there is always more than one way to say something.

Revising

- *Annotate your draft in any language.* Note where you feel ideas aren’t clear and discuss with a Writing Center consultant or friend.
- *Read your draft aloud with a friend who shares your first language.* When you come across something that makes you pause, discuss how you might say the same idea in your first language. Does your partner have another way of saying the same thing?
- *Read your draft aloud with a Writing Center consultant.* When you come across something that makes you pause, discuss what you notice about that idea. Does the consultant have ideas of how to express that idea in English? Does the conversation give you new ideas of how to express the idea in another way?
- *Create a backwards outline to work on structure.* In the margins of your draft, write a statement in any language that captures the main idea of the paragraph. Look at the statements: Do they all relate to your thesis? Do they follow a logical order? Should any ideas be combined or removed?

Proofreading & Editing

- *Take a break between writing and proofreading.* Go on a walk, have a chat, play a game, or wait until the next day edit.
- *Know your patterns.* Make a list of typical/repeated errors and then plan to proofread for each.
- *Proofread for one error at a time.* You can ask a Writing Center consultant to help with this by reading aloud as you edit for one type of error.
- *Change forms to notice more errors.* For example, enlarge the text, adjust the font, or switch font color.
- *Proofread backwards.* Read one sentence at a time, working from the last sentence to the first sentence. This allows you to concentrate on each sentence, rather than the flow of ideas.
- *Place a ruler under each line as you read.* This can help you focus on each sentence independent from the rest of the paragraph.