

***[Peter Elbow on the Composing Process]***

Start off writing as naturally and comfortably as possible. *Don't* think about grammar or about any minor matters of phrasing or spelling. Think only about what you want to say . . . .

Next . . . get your text to say exactly what you want it to say—but still without worrying about minor matters of phrasing, grammar, or spelling. . . .

Now turn your attention to phrasing, spelling, and grammar. . . . [R]ead it aloud to yourself . . . and read your piece aloud to one or two listeners. . . .

*Give your final, typed version to another person to copy-edit.* [italics mine]

(245)

***[Tryg Thoreson on Peter Elbow]***

In other words, forget about grammar until near the end of the process (these are “minor” matters, after all), and then rely on your own intuitive sense of what sounds right to make corrections. *Then* just hand it over to some poor sap who’s willing to do the mechanical scutwork.