



Writing: A Function of the Listening Process (Transcript)

Greetings. Writing, a function of the listening process. Can you hear me now?

One nexus of learning that is often overlooked is writing and listening. Greek philosopher Epictetus once said, and I quote, We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak. End quote. How do we harmonize these fundamental components in order to be effective writers, ideal communicators of words?

Here in college and beyond, students must practice writing, reading, speaking, and listening. You might recall the 2002 Verizon catchphrase, Can you hear me now? It's so relevant to current communicative expressions. And our writing begs the question, Can you hear my thoughts, my intentions, my motives, my tone, my attitude, my hopes? And then the professor says, Have you heard my expectations on the assignment, the purpose of the course, the due dates, et cetera? If not, what comes to mind as a possible distraction when you're completing and then turning in an effective paper?

I've listed seven distractions. One, digital devices. U.S. citizens spend about seven hours, that's almost a full work day on a cellular device and social media. Two, not concentrating. Three, listening too hard. These two struggle between the passive and active listening. Four, lack of sleep. You're supposed to be getting seven hours of sleep per night. Five, neurodivergent, that's ADHD, autism, and other neurological development. Six, emotional barriers, attitudes, values, beliefs, cloud your listening, and then seven, jumping to conclusions. These are just some of the strong influences on how information is processed, thus impacting the writing and listening adventure.

GMC has a culture of care. We want you to be successful. And listening is beneficial to the writing process. One, the revision process. Is it your voice that the reader hears? You can record yourself as self-reading your own paper or have a classmate listen as you read. Two, reading comprehension. Does it make sense? Making those meaningful connections between what is heard and what is written. Navigating the actual message and the intended message. And number three, reading fluency. Is your writing authentic? Listen to ascertain if your writing is natural, smooth, and real. Listening to your paper, reading it can help build your vocabulary, help you be reflective, gain insight from classmates and professors, empathize with others, increase civility, and improve your leadership skills.

An excellent listener is an excellent writer. Proverbs 18:13 says, If one gives an answer before he hears, It is folly and shame. Let's not be foolish. We should embrace and encourage active listening in the writing process. It's worth the journey. Thank you for listening. I'm Dr. Angela Williams.