

Lesson 1.3: The Writing Process

Prewriting: Asking Questions

Asking the 5W-How? Questions

One way for you to collect information about a subject is by asking the 5W-How? questions: Who? What? Where? When? and How? Not every question applies to every subject. Sometimes you will not need all of the questions. You may also use some of the questions more than once.

Example 1: Gathering information about Khadijah bint Khawaylid

- ◆ Who? Who was Khadijah bint Khawaylid?
- ◆ What? What did she do to help the spread of Islam?
- ◆ Where? Where did she live?
- ◆ When? When did she marry the Prophet Muhammad (salla allahu alaihi was salaam)?
- ◆ Why? Why should we study her life?
- ◆ How? How can we use her life as an example?

Asking “What If?” Questions

Asking “What If? questions can help you generate a variety of ideas for creative writing. By doing this you explore what might follow as series of events had something else occurred.

Example 2: Asking “What If?”

- ◆ What if some historical moment had been different? What if we did not have the use of computers?
- ◆ What if something amazing happened to a common person? What if a teenager suddenly became middle aged over night?
- ◆ What if someone you knew had special powers or abilities? What if you could remember everything you read at first glance?

Exercise 3: Using the 5W-How? Questions

You are writing a report about one of the subjects below. On your own paper, make a list of the 5W-How? questions that you can use to explore the subject inshaAllah.

The Battle of Badr

trampolines

Hawaii

The Night Journey

the Grand Canyon

Amusement Parks

Exercise 4: Using the 5W-How? Questions

Working with a partner, choose two of the following items. Then work together to write five “What if?” questions for each of the two items. Write questions on a separate piece of paper.

1. A rocket ship

2. Rain

3. Tap water

4. Telephones

5. An inflatable boat