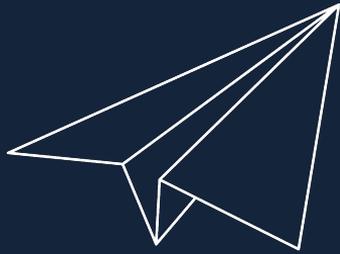


# The Great Margin

**The  
Great  
Margin**



# What is the *Writer's Cycle*?

The **Writer's Cycle** is a tool designed to provide useful advice and tips regarding creative writing practice for facilitators and emerging writers who want to start or continue a young person's creative writing project or initiative.

The Writer's Cycle **provides a reference map to the themes of a writing life** - discovering writing as a creative practice, exploring the writing craft, participating in communities, and finding media or platforms for writing of all kinds.

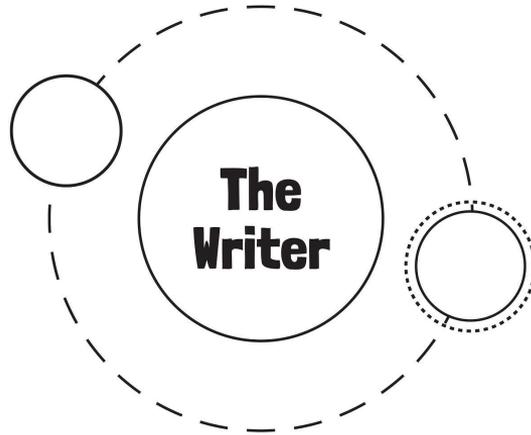
The Writer's Cycle is supported by a series of **Case Studies** that provide real life examples of cycle's application.



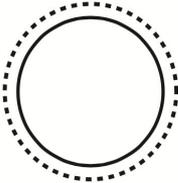
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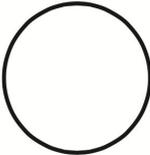
The Writer's Cycle takes a cyclical form, like a solar system. At the centre of the solar system is the writer.



Circulating around the writer are the core habits of writing practice, Write and Explore:

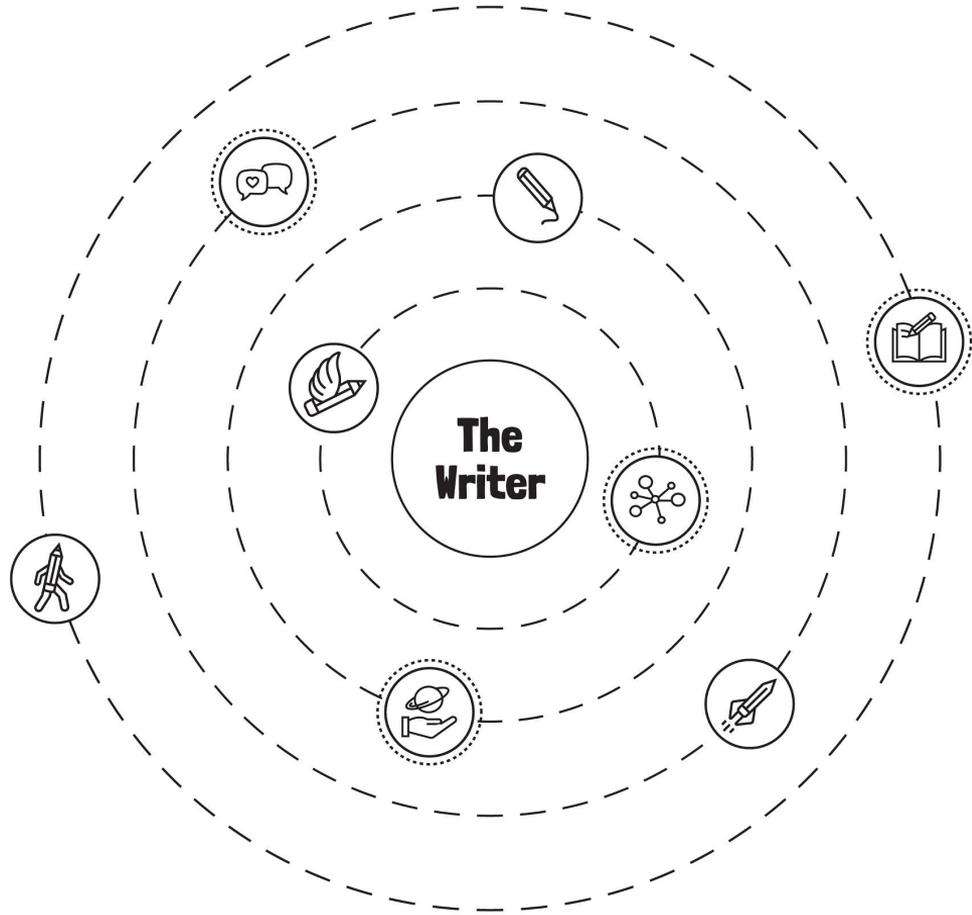


*EXPLORE*



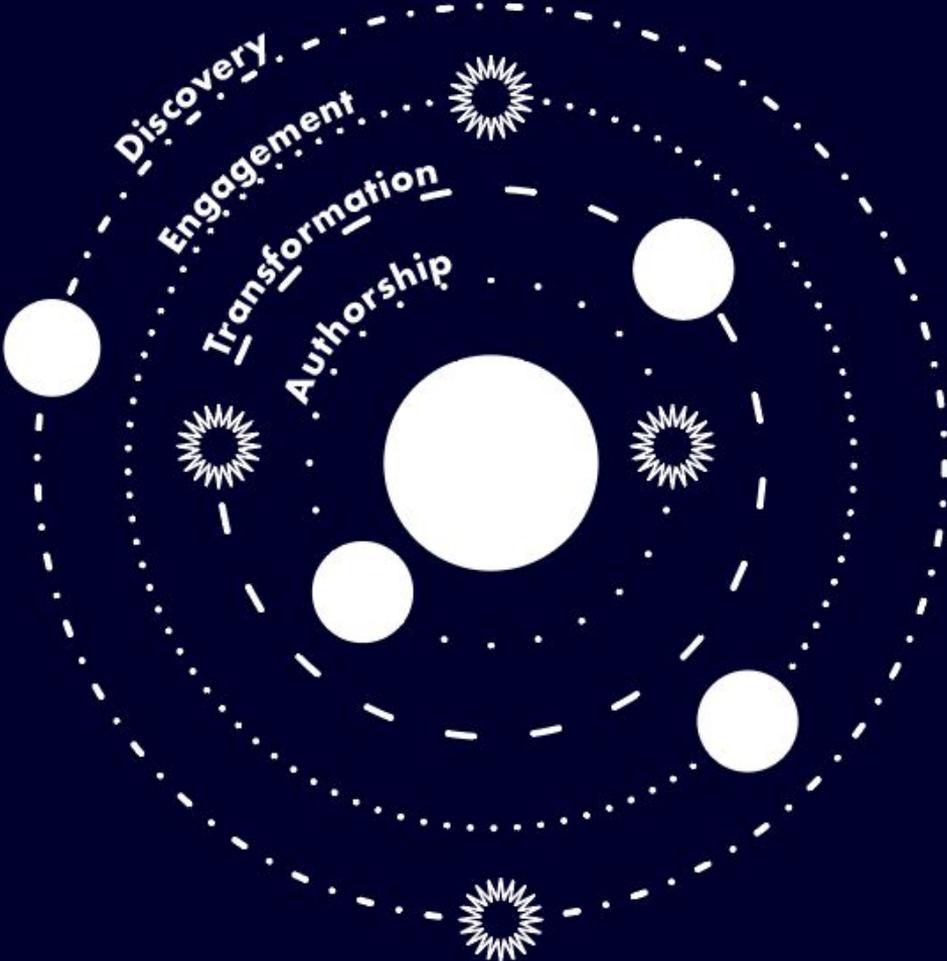
*WRITE*

Importantly, in this model of writing development, ways of practising these habits are not presented as a linear process, or as stages of attainment. Every writer's experience is different, depending on their own circumstances, inclinations and interests. To show this, we represent the writer's process of development as a cycle of learning in constant motion. The writer can revisit the same action over time with increasing complexity and depth, or they can add new orbits to represent different approaches to writing and exploration.



Each orbit introduces a new theme – a new way to engage with writing and exploration. Anyone can create their own solar system by using their own words to describe the themes and habits. For those wishing to customise the cycle, just start with the writer at the centre, and build habits around them to describe current and developing practice. For example, the following slides show a customised version of the cycle in which the themes of 'Connection' and 'Craft' have been replaced with 'Engagement' and 'Authorship'.

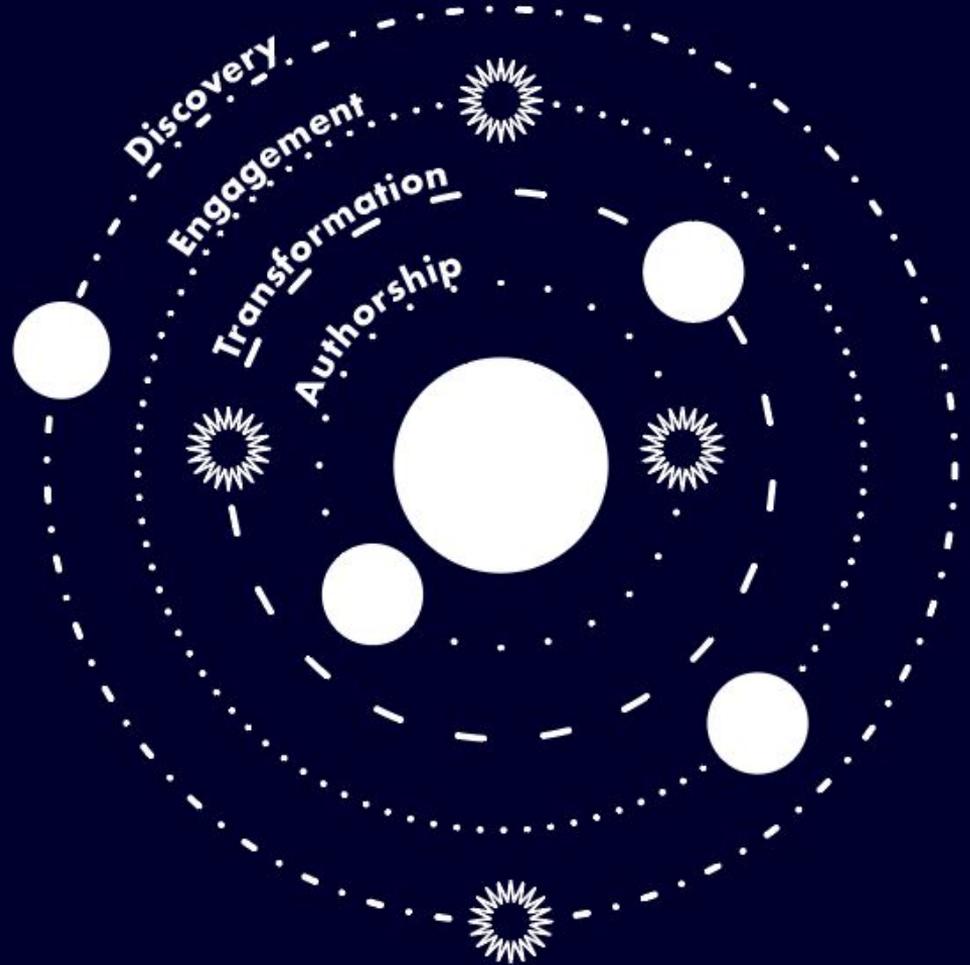
# The Writer's Cycle



# The Four Themes

The themes explore different aspects of a writer's experiences and practice.

What's unique about the Cycle is that these elements of practice are not presented as a linear process, or as stages of attainment.

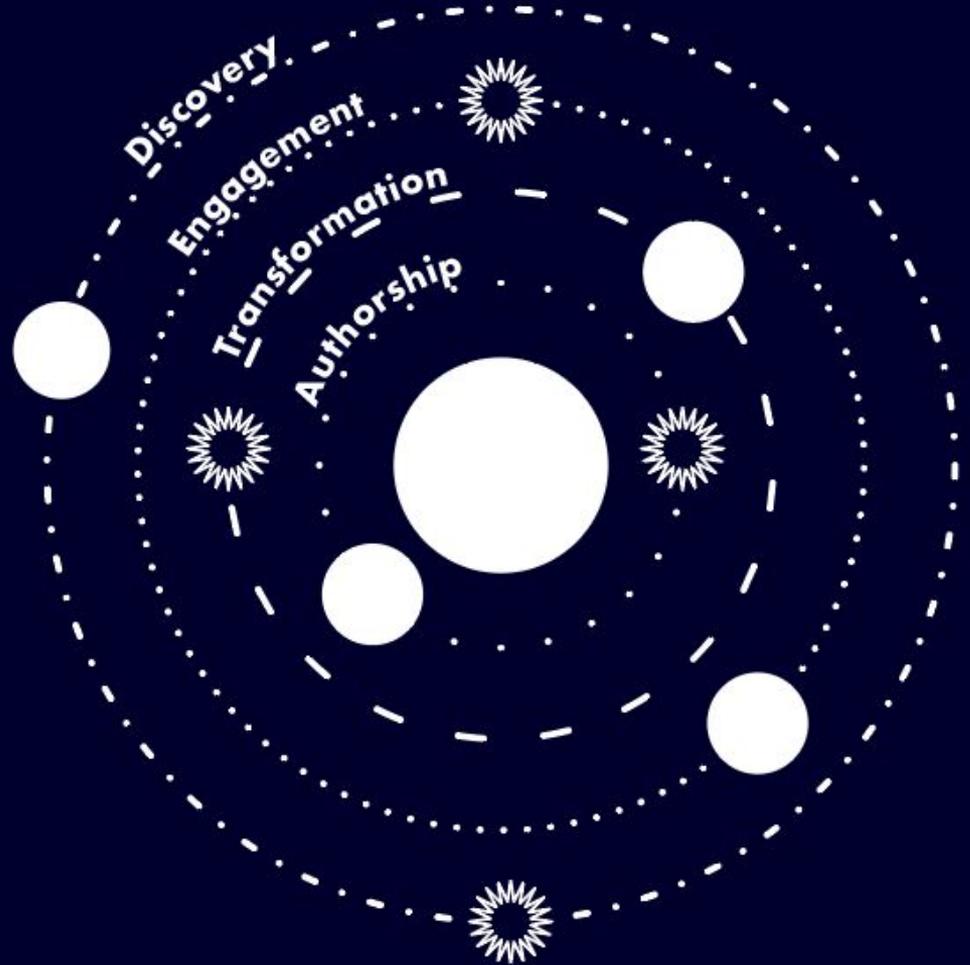


# DISCOVERY

Writing for fun, without restriction or prescription.

Once a writer finds the personal joy in exploring their feelings and observing their world in words, they are more likely to find pleasure in writing and sustain the practice.

The *Discovery* theme encourages a writing habit and a writing identity. This is also where ideas are generated.

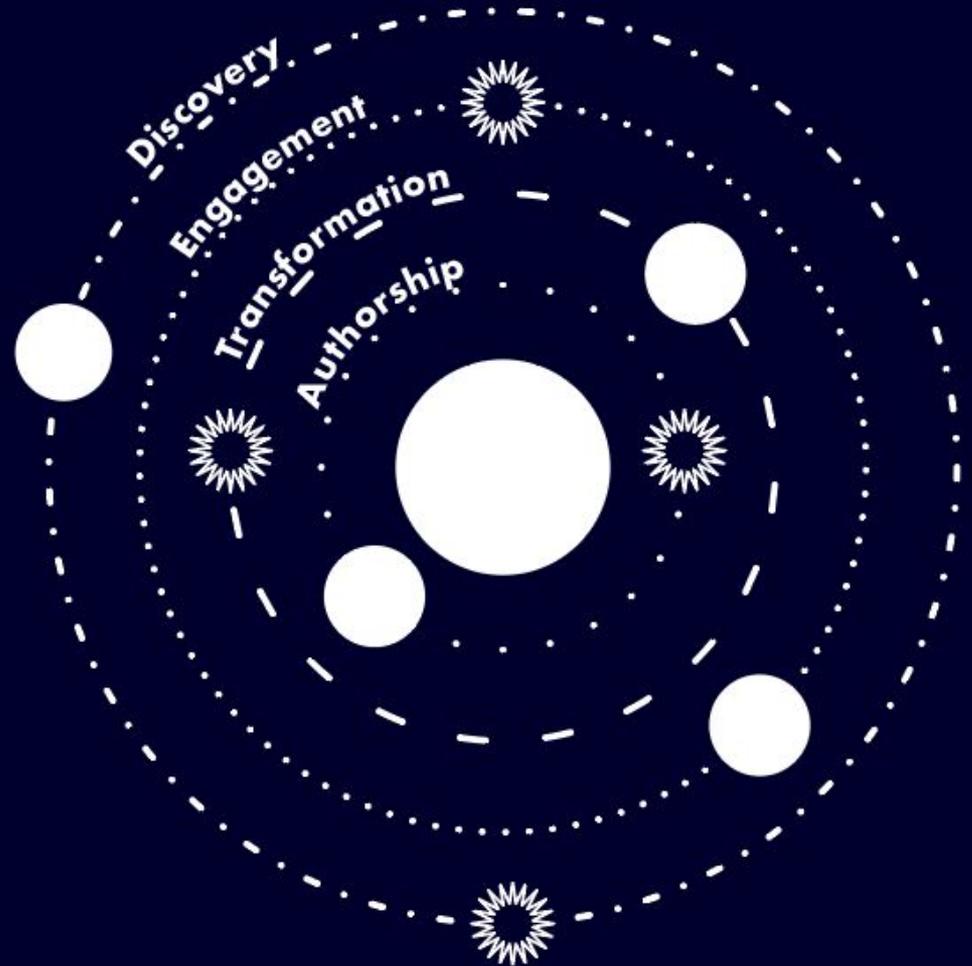


# AUTHORSHIP

As writers become more invested in honing their craft they explore writing techniques, styles, voices and genres, and experiment with them in their own writing.

This theme explores how writers learn to critique, analyse and shape their own work.

In this theme, writers make creative choices about their work.



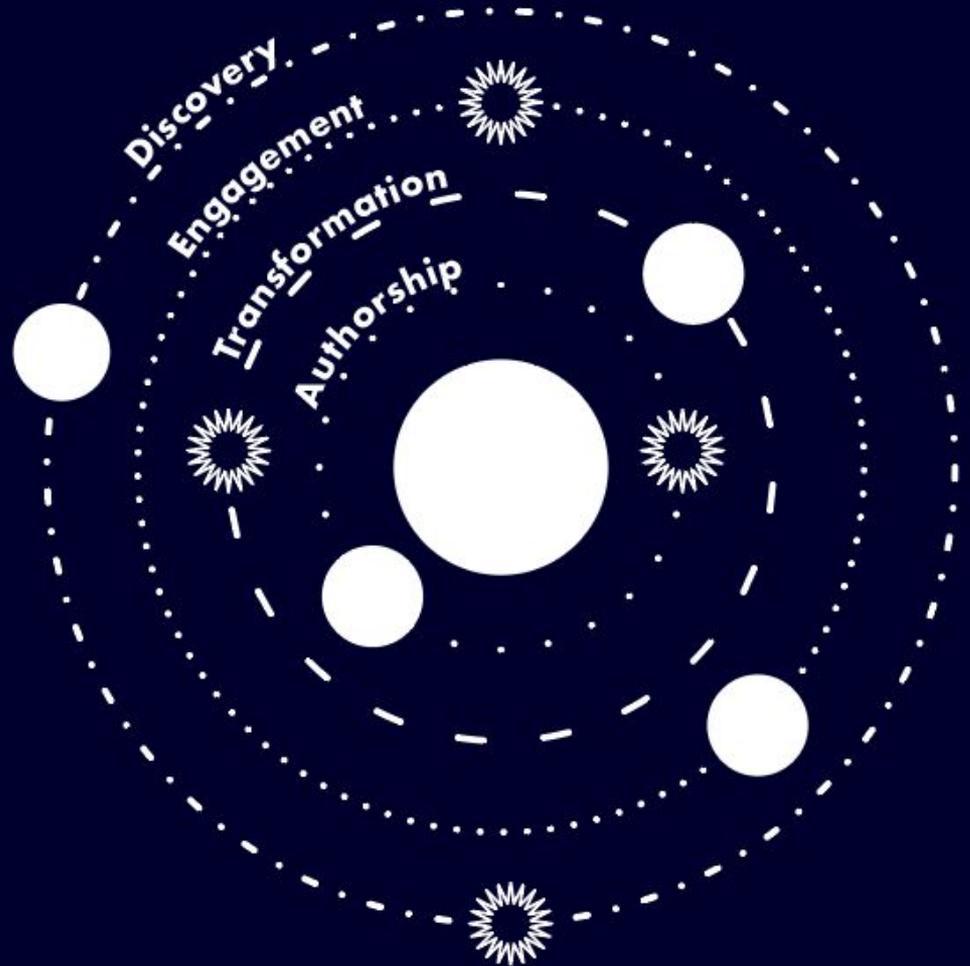
# ENGAGEMENT

The writer's community can be a source of inspiration; it can also be a vital source of support.

The theme of *Engagement* addresses and seeks to support this relationship.

For some writers, being an audience member or joining a group can be critical to the development of identity, helping writers to share their love of reading, to define their audience and to respond more effectively to critique and feedback.

However, some writers prefer to read and write independently.



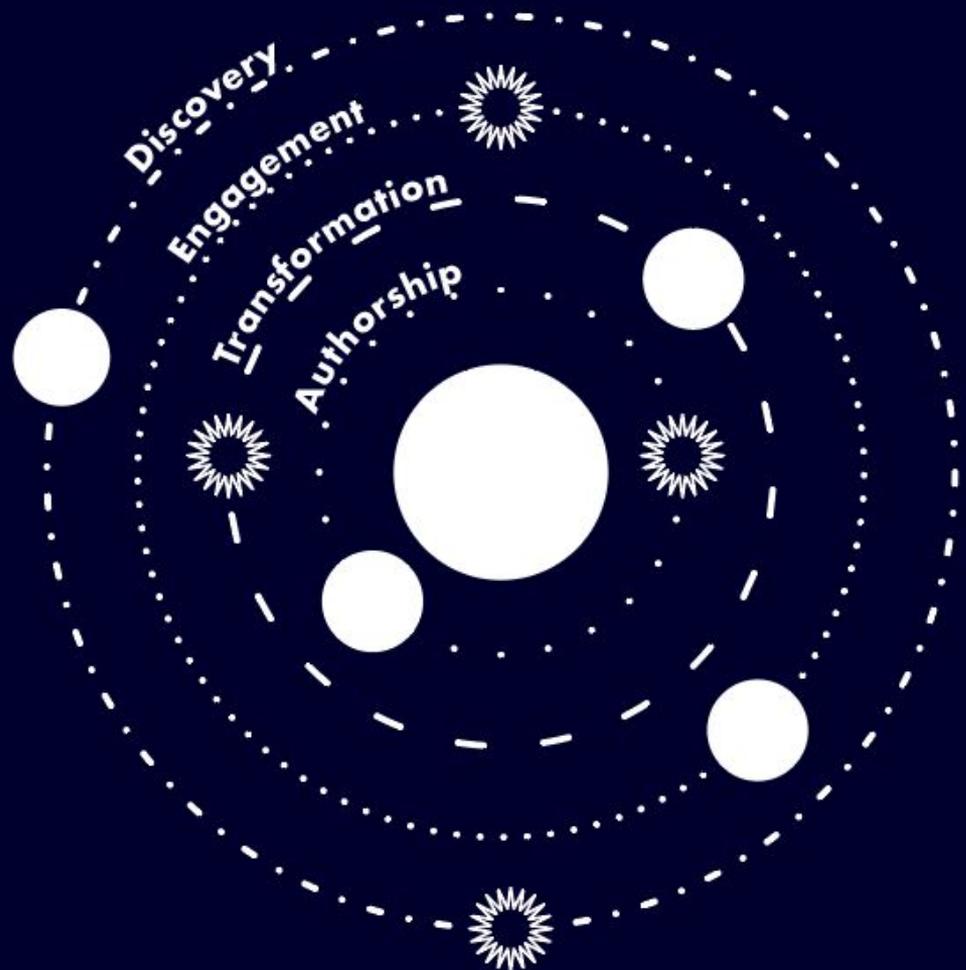
# TRANSFORMATIONS

The theme explores the relationship between writing and change-making. For example:

*\* The making and remaking of a written piece of work across different media and platforms.*

*\*The transformation of the author through the process of writing*

*\*The contexts that constrain and enable those who wish to pursue a writing life or a career as an author, including a review of the changes that are be needed across industry or education in order to enable a culture of writing for all.*



# Three Perspectives

The Cycle takes a circular form, like a solar system, to illustrate that a writer can revisit the same theme over time with increasing complexity and depth as their perspective changes.

**EMERGING WRITER** - Here we address the themes from the perspective of a young child or adult within a school or community learning setting who is starting off on the journey of writing creatively.

**CONTINUING WRITER** - This perspective addresses someone who has been exploring writing consistently for a sustained period (more than a year, if not longer).

**WRITER-FACILITATOR** - This is aimed at experienced or published writers, who are looking for guidance in the practice of supporting other writers.



# How did we create the *Writer's Cycle*

This resource was created through **co-produced creative practice and investigation**.

We define co-production as the **collaboration between creative investigators and other participants with specialist skill-sets and experiential knowledge** to co-create and co-deliver projects.

The Writer Development Cycle is rooted in evidence gathered from interested participants across the country. This involved carrying out surveys and interviews with writers, poets, facilitators, teachers and educators.



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**CO-PRODUCTION  
JOURNEY MAP**

**CO-DISCOVER**

**CO-DEFINE**

**CO-DEVELOP**

**CO-DELIVER**

**CO-EVOLVE**

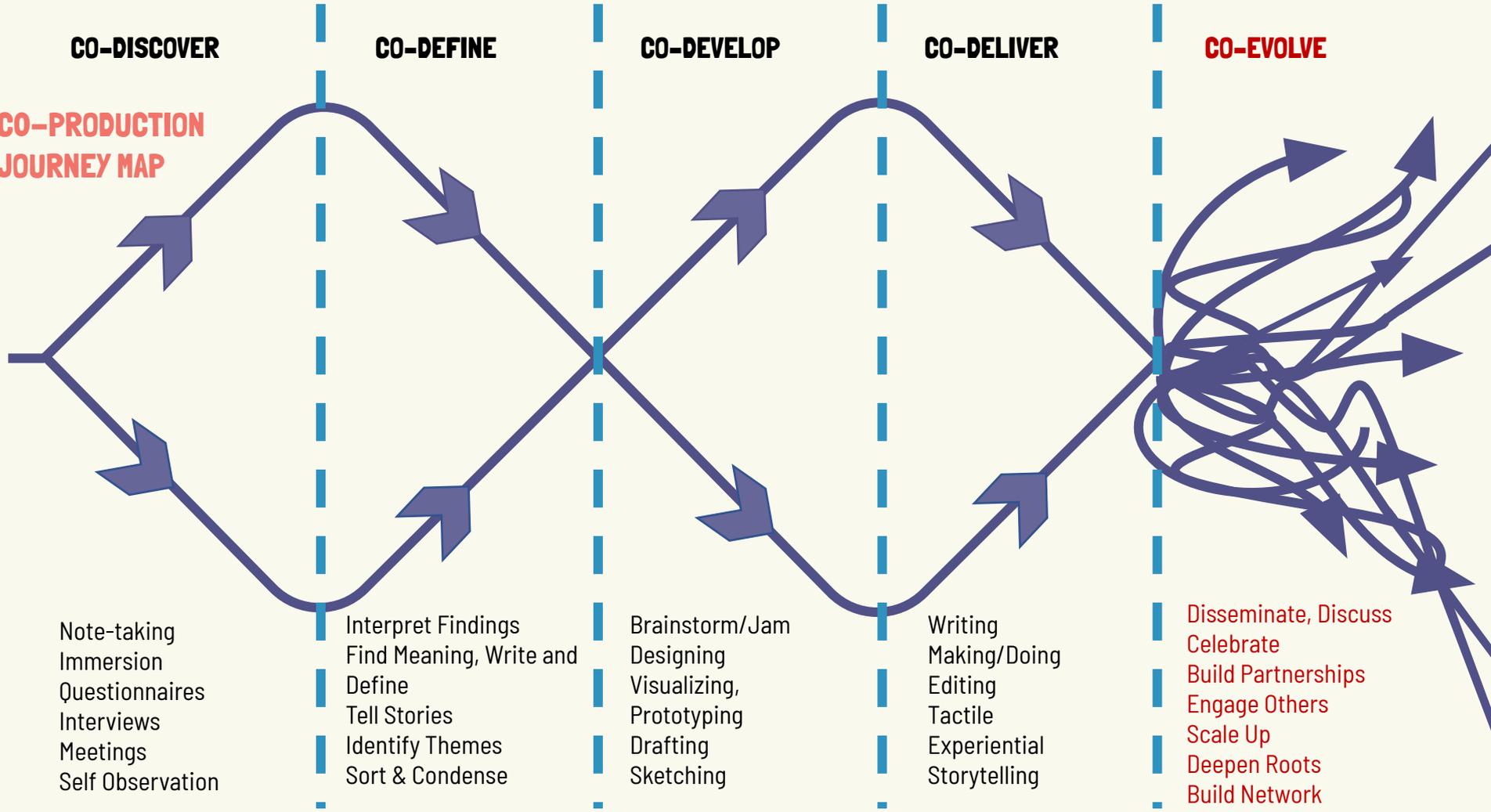
Note-taking  
Immersion  
Questionnaires  
Interviews  
Meetings  
Self Observation

Interpret Findings  
Find Meaning, Write and  
Define  
Tell Stories  
Identify Themes  
Sort & Condense

Brainstorm/Jam  
Designing  
Visualizing,  
Prototyping  
Drafting  
Sketching

Writing  
Making/Doing  
Editing  
Tactile  
Experiential  
Storytelling

Disseminate, Discuss  
Celebrate  
Build Partnerships  
Engage Others  
Scale Up  
Deepen Roots  
Build Network



# Paper Nations Key Partners on the Writer's Cycle



FIRST  
STORY  
Changing lives through writing



