

Moving through the Writing Process

(continued)

Steps 6, 7, and 8: Write Final Copy, Proofread, Share/Publish

The Story of “The Star-Spangled Banner”

How “The Star-Spangled Banner” became the national anthem is fascinating. Francis Scott Key first wrote it as a poem during the War of 1812. A British ship took Key prisoner near the city of Baltimore. From the ship’s deck he watched British ships bomb an American fort. But in the morning, the American flag still flew above it. Key wrote down what he saw on a scrap of paper. He set the poem to a popular tune. “The Star-Spangled Banner” was born. However, it was not until 1931 that Congress named it the national anthem of the United States. Today, “The Star-Spangled Banner” represents the U.S. It is performed before baseball games and other public events. People stand. Everyone sings together. When Americans sing “The Star-Spangled Banner,” they honor “the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

Works Cited: McCollum, Sean. “The Story Behind the Song: The Star-Spangled Banner.” *The Kennedy Center ArtsEdge*. John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, n.d. Web. 24 Apr. 2014.

“The Star-Spangled Banner.” *Smithsonian.com*. Smithsonian National Museum of American History, n.d. Web. 24 Apr. 2014.