

Writing the Final Paper



Why is it important to write essays?

Some classes will require you to submit papers as a final instead of completing a test.

Before we start

Writing can be scary, especially if you don't know when to start.

- It's going to be okay.
- The key to writing a great paper is GETTING STARTED.
- Review your assignment requirements and fully understand them.

Examples:

Prompt #1:

What are the similarities and differences? Make sure to talk about their historical and political importance and how they each contributed to the art movement of the era.

Prompt #2:

Choose one of the two art pieces, then write a 1000 word essay saying why this piece is better/ more important than the other.

Understand what is required

- Knowing the range of topics and the specific formatting is the first step in starting your paper with organization and structure.
 - You don't want to start working on a topic that's off-limits, vague, not answering the prompt, or in the wrong format only to find out later.
 - Always, always, always clarify requirements before starting.
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Choose a topic that interests you:

- Whether your topic is already assigned to you or you've expected to come up with it, you should ALWAYS find the angle that speaks to you.
 - You should go in a direction that is most engaging with you.
 - You are more likely to write well about something that interests you.
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Outline with detail:

- This is the most challenging step since it can lead your entire paper.
- This helps organize your points, find your main argument, and state them logically.
- Example: Point 1 → Point 2
- Having an outline will help you transition between paragraphs and help you talk about each point equally.
- Try making this outline as detailed as you can with what you want to include.
- Keep these in mind for your INTRODUCTION and CONCLUSION:
 - How you will begin
 - How you will summarize and conclude



Write with purpose:

- Now that you have an outline → it's time to flesh out your thesis statement.
- Don't be too broad with your thesis:
 - Remember to pick an arguable topic, something specific, and that you can justify with supporting evidence.
- If you are writing a persuasive/defensive paper, it is important to state opposing opinions and disprove them.

Support your thesis:

- Have good research and facts.
- Make sure you use clear arguments for support.
- Make sure that your sources are reliable and they clearly support your thesis.
- Have a point and stay focused.
 - Do each of your body paragraphs work towards proving your thesis?
 - The better your focus, the more effective your paper will be.

Use your own words:

- DON'T PLAGORIZE!
- Don't just copy and paste your references.
 - References serve to aid your arguments.
 - They are not your argument.
 - References should be used strategically.
- What you should aim for is summarizing and interpreting information in YOUR OWN WORDS.

Don't procrastinate → don't put off your papers until the last minute.

It might be better if you divide your work → set small goals for yourself.

Possible structure to follow:

Step 1: Research Step 2: Outline Step 3: Write thesis Step 4: Etc...

Proofread and revise:

- It's important to revise your work for spelling and grammar mistakes.
- Having someone else read your paper is super effective.
- Don't skip this step since typos can lower your grade.