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.

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.

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.

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