

How to start and complete an essay

The process of writing essays can be more productive and less stressful when the tips mentioned above are carefully considered:

1. Research

Usually, when students are assigned to write a paper, they are supposed to answer a question or controversy in their essays. You won't be able to write your essay without exploring the subject of your essay properly.

It's very important to research the topic before starting to write. Read a significant amount of literature on the given topic. Consider the Internet sources, libraries, lectures, etc.

2. Brainstorm

Right after we conduct the research and have a more or less clear understanding about the topic, it's time to brainstorm and come up with a number of ideas, arguments, examples, etc.¹

3. Write your thesis statement

The next step would be defining the thesis statement, which is a sentence in the last part of the introduction. Thesis statement expresses your position on a given topic and directly answers the question or task asked of you.

4. Write up your ideas, arguments and examples

Write all your ideas that you would like to include in the paper².

5. Plan your essay

Now that you have defined the thesis statement, it's important to think of arguments in support to your statement. With bullet points, write down the structure of your paragraphs.

6. Write the body of your essay

Write the paragraphs of your essay with examples and other materials to support your arguments.

7. Write the introduction

¹ Use Freewriting to brainstorm in three easy steps (July 20, 2012). Retrieved September 27, 2013, from <http://www.marketingprofs.com/short-articles/1957/use-freewriting-to-brainstorm-in-three-easy-steps#ixzz2hBwrhzXa>

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² Amber, L. (February 23, 2011). Journal Writing Tips: The benefits of Freewriting. Retrieved September 28, from <http://www.writingthroughlife.com/journal-writing-tips-the-benefits-of-freewriting>

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Try the inverted pyramid formula. Start off with a very broad description of your topic and gradually narrow it down to your specific thesis statement. Try to use no more than 3 to 5 sentences for short essays, and no more than 1 page for longer essays.

8. Write the conclusion

When you are done with the introduction and the body, read it again and write a short summary of what you have already written. Then, add some concluding points and observations about the subject.

Useful tips:

- Write your essay first, then come up with an essay title
- Polish your language (grammar, punctuation, etc.)
- Wait for a day or two and revise your essay³

³ Proofreading and Revising. Walden University. Retrieved October 3, 2013, from
³<http://writingcenter.waldenu.edu/872.htm>