The Writing Process

Steps in Writing an Essay

Pre-Writing

Planning and Organizing

Drafting

Revising and Editing

Final Draft!

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References
What is the writing process?

Writing an essay takes time. That’s why writing is often referred to as a process. In other words, a writer goes through several steps before he or she has a complete essay ready to turn in for a grade. This lesson talks about those steps:

- Pre-Writing
- Organizing
- Drafting
- Revising and Editing
- Handing in a Final Copy
Pre-Writing
Step One

Pre-writing literally means “before writing.” Before you actually begin writing your essay, you will need to do the following things:

- choose a topic to write on
- brainstorm or generate ideas for your topic
- focus in on central ideas
Making an outline can help you organize what you want to write. An outline is a rough plan for your essay and can help make the process of writing much easier.

### Essay Outline

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Introduction</th>
<th>Thesis: _____________________</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II.</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>1. Topic Sentence: ____________</td>
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<td>- supporting idea</td>
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<td>2. Topic Sentence: ____________</td>
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<td>3. Topic Sentence: ____________</td>
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<th>III.</th>
<th>Conclusion</th>
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After getting ideas and making an outline of your essay, it is time to start writing the essay. When you begin writing your rough draft, try to remember the following guidelines:

- Don’t worry about writing the “perfect” paper the first time.
- Your goal in writing a rough draft is to develop and support the ideas listed in your outline.
- Don’t focus on spelling and grammar as you write your rough draft. You can check this later in the writing process.
Revising and Editing

Step Four

After you write your first draft, go back over it and look for ways to improve your essay in content and organization. This step is called revision. After you revise for content and organization, begin editing your draft for mistakes in English conventions like spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure errors.

Revision

Content and Organization

Editing

Conventions: Spelling, Grammar, Punctuation, etc.
The Final Copy
Step Five

The last step is turning in your essay to be graded. Look at the guidelines below for turning in the final draft of your essay.

- word-processed in APA Style
- all new paragraphs indented five spaces
- 8 ½ by 11 inch white paper
- double spaced, Times New Roman size 12 font
- one inch margins on all sides
Evaluation

Now, you are ready to review what you’ve learned. Click on the button below to return to Unit A. Do the interactive exercise. Then click on the essay rubric link to see how your essay will be evaluated.