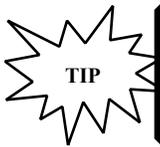




The Writing Process

1. Brainstorm ideas for essay topic
2. Determine the type of essay to write
3. Create an outline
4. Compose a thesis
5. Write the body of the essay
6. Write the conclusion
7. Write the introduction
8. If possible, put the essay aside for a little while
9. Read through the essay, determine if there are any necessary revisions
10. Make revisions
11. Proof read for errors



The method outlined here is merely a suggestion and is not the only path to writing an essay

Brainstorm/ Outline

If your assignment is to write an essay about a personal experience, you would start by brainstorming, unless you already know very specifically what you want to write about.

List, free write, or create an idea map of experiences you recall. When one seems like a good idea, begin outlining the major points and details you would like to discuss. If this topic does not work, then pick another from your brainstorming process.

Thesis

Once you have an outline, creating a thesis statement should be fairly easy. The thesis should state what the essay will be discussing, arguing, exploring, or describing (depending on the type of essay). It should address the main idea and the major points of the essay. These will be the major headings of your outline.



Different kinds of thesis statements:

- Analytical: Breaks down and evaluates an idea or text
- Expository: Explains something
- Argument: Makes a claim and justifies it
- Narrative: Gives the reader the purpose for the story or personal experience or reflection

Writing the Introduction

The opening paragraph of the essay should pique the reader's interest, clearly present the question or issue of the essay, and state an appropriate thesis. This paragraph will prepare the reader for what to expect in the essay.

Writing the Body

This is the largest part of the essay and the area in which the major points of the essay as well as the details will be discussed. It should be organized in a manner which makes the most sense in relation to your essay type and/or thesis. Each paragraph should be started with a topic sentence. The topic sentence states clearly what will be discussed in that paragraph.

Writing the Conclusion

The conclusion wraps up the paper and provides closure to the discussion of the essay. It also provides the "so what" of the paper—why the discussion is important or relevant, or what we should take away from it. Think of a conclusion as a paragraph that answers "what have I been trying to say to my reader?"