

HOW TO

Write an Academic Essay

- The first thing a student will want to do is find the prompt they have been given and ensure that they develop a general idea for how they will be responding.
 - If a prompt has not been given, the student can look into the arguments posed within outside sources to create a response, whether that be supporting those arguments or countering them.
- Once the student understands the prompt and has gone through their sources, they should begin with outlining their introduction. The introduction should set the context for the paper, but it is important that it does not begin too broadly.
 - Consider writing from the perspective of a future reader, what do they need to know to understand what you will be arguing?
- Next, the student should write a one sentence thesis statement that is specific to what they will be arguing within the body of the paper.
- From there, the student will develop body paragraphs that connect their argument to the evidence they have chosen to support that argument.
- Each paragraph should start with a topic sentence and end with a transition sentence.
- When incorporating evidence into the body paragraphs, it is important to interact with it. For example, if utilizing a quote, you will need to use some of your own words that will act as a bridge to the quote.
- Toward the end of the paper, decide if the evidence used is enough to thoroughly support the original argument made? If it is not, then you should be revising the thesis statement or finding additional evidence.
- Within the conclusion it is essential that you reconnect to the thesis and broadly provide an overview of the arguments made within the body of the paper.
- Other tips:
 - Avoid the first person (I, we, us, our, etc.)
 - Avoid contractions (Can't, Don't, Won't, etc)
 - Avoid dropping quotes (where the quote is the whole sentence)
 - Avoid blocking quotes (paraphrase portions if needed)
 - Ensure that you proofread for grammatical errors
 - Sentences should be approximately 22 - 28 words each, and paragraphs should be approximately 5-8 sentences long (these are averages)

