

Steps To Success for Writing an Essay

By Nikolas Homan

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When writing anything, it is always important to organize our thoughts. In doing so, we can not only keep track of ideas to save for later, but also form a more concrete outline of our writing. It is also helpful to keep track of our sources to make them accessible and easy to find when we are ready to include citations and endnotes.

These 10 easy steps will help you along the way:

1. Pick a topic that you are passionate about and that reflects the writing prompt. It is helpful to pick a topic that you do not know too much about so that you can learn along the way.
2. Start to research your topic. You can find articles, books, videos, and even talk to experts. You can also talk to people you might already know who have experience or insight into your topic!
3. Make sure to keep track of anything that stands out to you from your research. This can be a fact, statistic, or anything else.
4. Make an organizer to help keep track of your research sources and facts. Write down as much as you can. (You will need it for later!)
5. Once you start to understand your topic more and how it connects to the prompt, you can start writing. Start with a thesis statement and keep an eye out for statistics and facts that will help support your claim.
6. From personal experience, once I started to write, I began to have questions. This is a great time to contact an expert for some deeper information. Make sure to ask them if you can record their answers!
7. Begin to write your evidence. This should come directly from your research and be as specific as you can--but remember to use quotation marks to directly reference something that someone else said or wrote.
8. Add analysis. Depending on the prompt, this is a perfect opportunity to include any specific ideas your experts mentioned. They often have extra insight to add about problem solving and moving forward--both great things to talk about for analysis.
9. Add a strong finishing sentence or paragraph that summarizes what you have written and reflects the prompt. It helps to connect to your original thesis statement.
10. Read through what you have written. You can always go back and do more specific research if you want to add any more details. It is extremely helpful to ask for feedback from peers, teachers, parents or advisors. They might see little things that you missed or have ideas to help you.

A simple organizer can go a long way, but it can also be helpful to make more complex organizers for your writing ideas as well. Remember the LEAF format? (Lead, Evidence, Analysis, Finisher)

On the following page is an organizer that I made to help with my research:

Your Name _____
 Your Topic/Prompt _____

<u>Facts/ Statistic</u>	<u>Source</u>
<p>This is where you can add any facts, statistics or other ideas you pick up.</p>	<p>Make sure to write down or link your sources here. This will make the process of making endnotes much less overwhelming.</p>
<p>Example:</p> <p>Migrant workers tend to be employed in jobs that carry increased exposure to environmental toxins, including extreme temperatures, pesticides, and chemicals.</p>	<p>Link:</p> <p>https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/full/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-040617-013714An</p>
<p>Add as many rows as you need! The more the better!</p>	

<u>Evidence</u>	<u>Analysis</u>
<p>Copy or rephrase the most useful information or idea from your research in complete sentences.</p>	<p>How does this evidence connect to the prompt and your thesis?</p>
<p>Example:</p> <p>Migrant workers are often put in the line of danger by their jobs.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <p>When the lives of migrant workers are mistreated and put into hazardous conditions, they are not granted the ideals which our nation strives to achieve.</p> <p>(Now all we have to do is copy and paste, and we have one piece of evidence, complete with analysis and a source to back it up!!)</p>

Blank Template:

Your Name
Your Topic/Prompt

<u>Facts/ Statistic</u>	<u>Source</u>

<u>Evidence</u>	<u>Analysis</u>