

TEN TIPS TO WRITING A GREAT ESSAY

Ready to get writing? Here are my ten best tips for having fun while writing an essay that earns you the top grade!

by Joe Bunting



1 YOUR ESSAY IS JUST A SHORT STORY

Every story is about conflict and change, and the truth is that essays are about conflict and change, too! The difference is that in an essay, the conflict is between different ideas, the change is in the way we should perceive those ideas.

2 ASK YOURSELF, "HOW CAN I HAVE THE MOST FUN WRITING THIS?"

Here's the secret trick: One of the interesting things about your subconscious is that it will answer any question you ask yourself. So whenever you feel unmotivated to write your essay, ask yourself the following question: "How much fun can I have writing this?"

3 ASK YOURSELF, "WHAT SURPRISES ME ABOUT THIS SUBJECT?"

The temptation, when you're writing an essay, is to write what you think your teacher or professor wants to read. Don't do this. Instead, ask yourself, "What do I find interesting about this subject? What surprises me?"



4 OVERWHELMED? JUST WRITE FIVE ORIGINAL SENTENCES.

The standard three-point essay is really made up of just five original sentences, surrounded by supporting paragraphs that back up those five sentences. If you're feeling overwhelmed, just write five sentences.



5 BE SOURCE HEAVY

Instead of putting the main focus on writing well, it instead forces you to research well, which some students find easier.

6 WRITE THE BODY FIRST, THE INTRODUCTION SECOND, AND THE CONCLUSION LAST.

Try writing your introduction last, giving yourself the body of the paper to figure out the main point of your essay.



7 MOST ESSAYS ANSWER THE QUESTION, "WHAT?" GOOD ESSAYS ANSWER THE "WHY?" THE BEST ESSAYS ANSWER THE "HOW?"

If you get stuck trying to make your argument, or you're struggling to reach the required word count, try focusing on the question, "How?"



8 DON'T BE AFRAID TO JUMP AROUND.

Give yourself the freedom to write as if you're circling around your topic rather than making a single, straightforward argument. Then, when you edit, you can make sure everything lines up correctly.

9 SOME WORDS AND PHRASES YOU DON'T WANT TO USE.

- You
- Clichés
- Some
- That
- Things
- To Be verbs

10 IT'S OKAY TO USE WIKIPEDIA, IF ...

Here are two ways you can use Wikipedia in your essay writing:

- Background research
- Finding sources

