

The Writing Process: Beginning an Assignment



Starting an essay can be daunting for students, so a few tools on how to start the writing process can help make it much smoother, alleviate stress, and produce better writing.

1. Start with the assignment: Ask to see the student's assignment guidelines from the professor.
 - a. Take time to read their assignment guidelines next to the student aloud or in silence
 - b. Take notecards and write down key points from the guidelines of what their professor is asking.
2. Ask questions: Prompt the student to talk and be ready to write. Oftentimes students will begin to talk about the subject matter they're interested in, but they are afraid to either write it or do not know how to phrase it. Some questions:
 - c. What subject/topic do you think you want to talk about for this assignment?
 - d. Why do you want to write about it?
 - i. They'll usually answer this in a because statement
 - e. How do you think you can prove the point, or flesh out the item?
 - ii. They can usually respond with surveys, articles, social media posts and any evidence to help analyze their point, argue their point, or explain their points.
3. Start with a topic:
 - f. Allow students to read what you've recorded for their answers and have them conceptualize it with freewriting
 - g. Students can either free write what they already know about the topic and then supplement with evidence that aids their points, or they can do the research first, annotate the documents, and write their documents and then revise with their evidence.
4. Create a thesis:
 - h. After letting students conceptualize your answers to the questions and allowing them to see their topic in the light, let them craft a thesis.
 - i. The thesis development can change but a basic thesis should follow the format of **claim and reason**.
 - j. Ex. Marvel is better than DC because of the background stories of their characters, the cinematic and tv universe, and their marketing of each superhero.
5. Outlining essay:
 - k. Mind mapping
 - l. Topic sentences
6. If the assignment requires sources, suggest the client book a Research Appointment with the library after helping them flesh out their ideal topic and direction of their essay.