Planning your Paper

Start planning! It is beneficial to think about writing your paper in sections and create a strategy to get your paper done.

Why Plan your essay?

• It provides a timeline for work you have to do
• You can focus your topic for the assignment
• Provides structure to the paper while writing
• It also ensures all of the complex thinking is complete before trying to find the right words to express the ideas

Where to start?

→ Create a plan!

• You do not need to work on your research paper every day!

• Create a schedule to keep yourself on track
  o If your paper is due November 30th, work backwards to create a timeline for your research process

  ➢ For Example:
    • **November 8:** Actively read first and second journal
      • **Tip:** Keep track of citations and important quotes
    • **November 10:** Actively read third journal and fourth journal
      • **Tip:** Keep track of citations and important quotes
    • **November 12:** Search for additional sources if needed
- **November 15:** Create a mind map or paper outline template from your research notes to connect authors ideas together
- **November 16 - 20:** Start writing the paper one section at a time
  - **Tip:** Give yourself breaks - it allows you to come back to your writing with fresh eyes
- **November 22- 30:** Edit, polish, grammar check, and format your paper
  - **Tip:** Always have someone else look through your paper, a new set of eyes on you writing brings a new prospective.
- **Essay Due Date:** Nov 30th

→ Just Start!

- Once you’ve scheduled out your research paper you know the amount of time you need to get everything done without stress!

- **Actively read your materials!**
  - This means you are taking notes while reading either in a separate notebook, on the printed article, or in the downloaded version of the article.
  - It is important to write down your thoughts when reading articles because it allows you to see connections between the different authors ideas.

- If you find direct quotes that help your argument be sure to:
  - Highlight it in the article,
  - Write down the page number,
• Author
  • By taking note of these elements you are less likely to plagiarize

• Be sure to keep track of your citations by creating a reference list from Database generators

→ Break Down your Writing

• It can be difficult to organize your thoughts after gathering all necessary information
  • Try connecting ideas with a mind map or paper outline

• Remember to start writing your paper in manageable sections
  ➢ For Example:
    • 1500-word essay might be broken down in this way:
      • Introduction: 200 words
      • Main body: 4-5 core ideas at 200-250 words each
      • Conclusion: 300 words