

## Tips for Getting Started with Writing

Sometimes students put off getting started with writing, or begin but repeatedly cross out, making little or slow progress. Firstly:

- Research thoroughly, and construct a plan of your assignment;
- choose the section you feel most confident to write (you don't need to write the assignment in order of your plan); and
- aim to get the thoughts down, knowing that the first draft may be imperfect, messy, and disorganised, and that you will improve it later.

### Try the following:

- Talk about the content of your assignment with others, to clarify your thinking and help you generate your ideas.
- Set a regular schedule for writing, and a separate time to work on editing.
- Type up the structure of your assignment with headings and bullet points that you can remove once you have written these ideas into sentences and paragraphs.
- Write anything down in any form, to help get your ideas flowing.
- Add more detailed notes to your plan before writing your first draft.
- Write a summary of the assignment first, to help you focus on the topic. This may later be adapted for a conclusion.

Set yourself goals for each writing session. Start with manageable goals, such as 10 minutes to write as much as possible or writing 3-4 sentences or notes as quickly as possible. Then set a larger goal, until you have an initial draft.

### References

Cottrell, S. (2013). *The study skills handbook* (4th ed.). Basingstoke, England: Palgrave Macmillan.

Lu, S. (2018). Blast through writer's block: Here's how to break through the barriers that keep you from

doing your best work. Retrieved from [http://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2015/11/writers-](http://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2015/11/writers-block.aspx)

[block.aspx](http://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2015/11/writers-block.aspx)