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


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