

Tips for Getting Started with Writing

Sometimes students delay getting started with writing or begin but repeatedly cross out, making little or slow progress.

Before you start



- [Analyse the task](#)
- [Research the topic](#) thoroughly
- [Construct a plan](#) of your assignment
- Talk about the content of your assignment with others to clarify your thinking and help you generate your ideas.

Tips to get started

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 a summary of the assignment first to help you focus on the topic. This may later be adapted for a conclusion.• Add more detailed notes to your plan before writing your first draft.• Write anything down in any form to help get your ideas flowing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set a manageable goal for each writing session, such as 10 minutes to write as much as possible, or writing 3-4 sentences as quickly as possible. Then set a larger goal.• Begin with the section you feel most confident to write (you don't need to write the assignment in order of your plan).• Aim to get the thoughts down, knowing that the first draft will be imperfect, messy, and disorganised, and that you will improve it later. |
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References

- Cottrell, S. (2013). *The study skills handbook* (4th ed.). 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*. <http://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2015/11/writers-block.aspx>

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