

Scott Coronado

Professor Matheso

English Education Paper

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English Education

As a college student, there are many different assignments that we must complete. It could be group work, presentations, creating a case study, or even just watching a film. One of the most common assignments however is writing a paper. For me, trying to write an essay is something that is difficult sometimes. The reason for this is that most do not know where to begin or simply just have writer's block. However, once I get my ideas straight and begin creating a flow with my writing it begins to become easier and almost fun. It is fun because the difficulty of expressing my words becomes easier. There are many different unique strategies that students take to complete this assignment. This paper will go over some suggestions and advice on how to write a college essay from planning your essay to executing those plans and even how to overcome roadblocks when writing.

To begin the writing process of an essay you should actually not begin writing anything at all. The first thing you should do is read the assignment sheet provided by your professor. There could be different types of essays that your professor could want. Such as an argumentative essay where you select a topic and come up with a thesis and create a position on the topic you have chosen. As well as a research paper where you conduct research on a topic and write about what you learned in that research. In turn, your professor could just want you to write about whatever you want as long as it has a set structure. Understanding the assignment sheet can give a clear understanding of what the assignment is about and what your professor is

looking for. Also need to know the proper citations for the essay such as MLA, APA, or Chicago. An example of this is an assignment that my professor gave us where we had to select 2 sources that were provided a written response about them. Also if we write 150 words then we get a “B” and if we write 250 words we receive an “A”. I would end up writing 381 words in three paragraphs. These examples are shown on pages 5 and 6.

Once you have read and understood the assignment sheet you should try to plan out when you are going to work on your paper. Such as writing a piece of the paper every day until it is finished or even maybe spending a day writing the entire paper. Also, it would perhaps be a good choice to create a draft or outline. When I am doing an essay I would write the paper a couple of days before it is due. For others, this may seem like a lazy or risky thing to do but I feel like if I begin writing weeks before then I wouldn't take the assignment seriously. With that sought of pressure, I would stay focused but at the same time, I won't try to rush it. However, for those who struggle with writing under pressure, I would suggest writing in a planner or calendar for days you can work on the essay. I personally use google calendar and write my assignments down when they are due. Doing this it helps me visualize how long I have before the assignment is due and just helps me by not having to memorize every assignment. An example of this is on page 8.

To begin your essay you should start with an introduction to the essay. This is where you can give basic information on your topic or even give historical background on your topic. To end your introduction paragraph you should write a thesis statement. A thesis statement summarizes your position on the topic of the essay and tells the reader what the paper will be about. Once finished with that you can begin your body paragraphs, where you would write your thoughts on your topic. When you finish the body paragraphs it is time to write the concluding

paragraph. In this final paragraph, you will have to start with the thesis statement that you wrote in the introduction. Also, have to summarize what you wrote in the body paragraphs into the concluding paragraphs. The final sentence should end with a closing statement for the reader. Also if you have used any outside sources you should cite them on the work cited page at the end. Once you have completed your essay I would suggest reading over your essay so that maybe you could revise or edit some parts of it. I would also recommend having a parent or friend read over your work or even send a copy to your professor just so that they can maybe give you suggestions.

When writing you could experience writer's block where you have trouble coming up with an idea or what to write about. If this happens to you can let your brain relax by taking your mind off the assignment for a minute so it can be refreshed. As well as take some time off from writing by going for a walk, getting something to eat, or even taking a nap. Sometimes when you are having difficulty writing it could be better to distract yourself for a second to let your brain rest and let your thoughts come back to you. Could also ask yourself the topic question and just answer it out loud and just write down what you say. This could be like you are just talking out loud about what you want to say to another person as if you are having a conversation with them. As mentioned before you could create an outline so when you are having difficulty with what to say you can take a look at your outline.

To conclude, this paper went over several suggestions on how to write a college essay. From reading the assignment sheet to understand what type of essay your professor wants. As well as provided examples of an essay that I completed with the assignment sheet. Also how to plan what days you will work on your essay and to use a planner or calendar to visualize what day the assignment is due. Additionally, It showed the major parts of the essay being the

introduction, body paragraphs and concluding paragraphs. Also Revising and Edit the essay once you are done or even send a copy to someone to look over. Finally showed tips on overcoming difficulties of writer's block. From just asking yourself the topic question and answering it out loud or even just taking a break from writing. Overall the writing process for writing an essay may be difficult. You need to stay determined that you will overcome it.

Example of an Assignment sheet

Next, consider important connections between the sources you read. How can you put these sources in conversation with each other? You might include important quotations from the sources. (50-125 words)

Note: Be sure to cite the readings. I encourage you to use bibliography or citation statements in your Reading Response. In other words, be sure to cite the names and/or authors as you write your lines of summary. (e.g. In his article “Homer Simpson’s Figures of Speech, Nordquist states that . . .)

Conclude your Reading Response with your own personal reactions to the texts. What questions and reactions do you have to the readings? How do the readings connect to your personal experiences? How do the readings connect to other learning experiences in and beyond this course? In short, speak back to the texts. (50-125 words)

Grading Contract

For an “A,” draft 250 words.

For a “B,” draft 150 words.

Example of my response

Scott Coronado

Professor Kole

Reading Response 1

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The first article that I read was the article about email etiquette. Overall this article just broke down the ways to write a good and effective email to your college professors. Some of these tips include adding your class period and time to your class in order to make it easier for your professor to find you. As well to add the thing that you are emailing them for in the subject just make it clear. Also explains how there should be a specific way to write our emails. Since growing up in this texting age we have to make sure that we don't add those same texting methods in our emails. Also, suggest that we should try to write in a positive tone and try not to use words like non or ex. As well as to try to keep the email brief and to always check for punctuation and grammar mistakes before sending it.

The second article that I read was the Shitty First Drafts article. This article begins with a draft of a paragraph on which the article is based. It then explains how most people believe the idea that all writers have an easy time writing their stories. However, this fantasy that all readers create their stories first try is far from the truth. The article explains how many writers usually do not even have a plan before they start writing. They come up with their ideas as they write. This is where the "shitty first draft" is explained to be the first draft where you just lay all your ideas out and do not care about the overall structure of it.

Overall I enjoyed the two articles that I chose and believe that they are helpful. I believe that email etiquette is the most important one to learn and know. The reason for that is that you want

to seem mature in emails to your professors and show that you are serious. Also, those tips that they proved us can help me outside of college and for the rest of my life. Also, believe that the second article was informative because I can use that tactic if I'm having trouble starting an essay or assignment.

Example of my Google calendar

The screenshot displays a Google Calendar interface for February 2022, showing a weekly view from Sunday, February 6th, to Saturday, February 12th. The calendar is populated with various events and classes. A sidebar on the left provides navigation and settings options.

Calendar Interface Elements:

- Header:** "Calendar" logo, "Today" button, navigation arrows, "February 2022", search icon, help icon, settings icon, "Week" dropdown, and a logo for "Old Dominion University".
- Calendar Grid:**
 - SUN (Feb 6):** English Education PAPE, Weekly Modules, HISTORY MAP QUIZ, ASSIGNMENT 2 PSYCH, eP: Blog 2, eP: Top Artifact One.
 - MON (Feb 7):** MATH 9 - 9:50am, ENGLISH 1 - 2pm, STUDIO 2 - 2:50pm, complete POKC and catch up modules 3 - 10pm.
 - TUE (Feb 8):** PSYCH test, Catch Up Modules 2-7, SMA meeting 12:30 - 1:30pm, HISTORY 5:45 - 7pm.
 - WED (Feb 9):** POKC #1, Test 1 (Modules 2 - 7), MATH 9 - 9:50am, SI 11 - 11:45am, ENGLISH 1 - 2pm, STUDIO 2 - 2:50pm, WORK ON PSYCH TEST 3:30 - 10pm.
 - THU (Feb 10):** Return Housing Appeal, MATH 9 - 9:50am, ENGLISH 1 - 2pm, STUDIO 2 - 2:50pm, HISTORY 5:45 - 7pm.
 - FRI (Feb 11):** Module 8 due, ENGLISH 1 - 2pm, STUDIO 2 - 2:50pm.
 - SAT (Feb 12):** MATH 9 - 9:50am.
- Left Sidebar:**
 - Create** button.
 - February 2022** calendar grid with navigation arrows.
 - Meet with...** section with a "Search for people" input field.
 - Time Insights** section with a toggle switch.
 - My calendars** section with a list of checked calendars: MATH SI, ENGLISH, HISTORY, MATH, PSYCH, Reminders, STUDIO, and Tasks.