

Tips for Paper Writing

- Re-read! Do a final edit on your paper at least a day before it's due, and if possible, give yourself a day after you've finished writing before you re-read it.
 - Often, papers read differently after you've given them time and space.
 - AKA don't procrastinate. Papers are SO much better when you take your time.
- Do not try to cover too many things.
 - Prove your thesis! Remember—that is the goal. (See other worksheet)
- Develop a “writing voice”-- somewhere in between conversational and formal/academic.
 - Stay away from contractions: can't, don't, won't.
 - Stay away from slang.
 - Still, don't write as though you have used a thesaurus on every word.
- Elaborate, but don't repeat.
 - It's good to exhaust the topic, but don't reiterate points you have already made.
 - Trust the professor remembers and understands everything he or she has read.
- Write as though your reader knows the subject.
 - The general rule (unless otherwise stated) is to write for an expert. In other words, write for the smartest person you know.
 - They have studied anthropology and know the basic terms/structures/text.
 - They have read Hamlet and have an understanding of the plot and literary devices.
 - Remember, you're writing for your professor or T.A. so it should not be in layman's terms.
- NEVER plagiarize. Your own ideas are enough!
- If you can, pair up with another student in your class and read each other's papers before they are due.
 - It helps to have another pair of eyes, they can point out parts of the text that are unclear or need more information.