



HOW TO BUILD & CONSTRUCT AN ESSAY

Kortschak Center for Learning and Creativity at the University of Southern California
Presented by Jasmine Revels

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this presentation, you should be able to...

- Articulate the process of planning an essay
- Understand and apply basic rules of essay writing to your own essays

Where to Start?

- Read the prompt and see that you understand it
- If needed, ask your professor questions
- Gather ideas
- Create a timeline for your essay to keep yourself organized (Scott, 2006)

Brainstorm!

- It is never too early to begin brainstorming
- Brainstorming helps students conceptualize their essays. Jot down notes, create mind maps, web diagrams, etc. to bring together ideas (Rutenberg, 1993)



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Gather for the Harvest

- Find quotes, research, and collect resources
- Write your thesis
- List your points that will be in your body paragraphs



It's Writing Time!

- General essays usually have five paragraphs (an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion)
- There are multiple types of essays
- Transitions, transitions, transitions!
- Keep within the page number minimum and maximum



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Do Not Forget to Edit!

- Leave enough time to edit
- Routinely check for spelling and grammatical errors as the paper is written
- Avoid issues such as fragments, run-on sentences, and jargon (Hacker and Sommers, 2016)
- Adhere to MLA or APA rules and formatting. Purdue Owl is a great source to use (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>)
- Peer editing and feedback is always a great idea!



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References

Hacker, D. & Sommers, N. (2016). *A pocket style manual* (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's.

Rutenberg, A. (1993). How to Write an Essay. *The American Scholar*, 62(2), 296-301.

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Scott, A. (2006). Essay writing for everyone: An investigation into different methods used to teach Year 9 to write an essay. *Teaching History*, (123), 26-33.

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