

Five Tips for College Writing

1. Make time for all parts of the writing process. Schedule time to first **brainstorm** a list of possible ideas for your paper or project. Doing so can help you avoid procrastinating by starting an assignment early. Next, schedule time to write your first **draft** and even a second or third. Lastly, schedule time to first **revise** for ideas and to **edit** as your last step.



2. Learn about and use ASU Library resources when writing papers. Check out lib.asu.edu to learn about the different ways you can find sources for your papers. For example, you can search for sources like books, articles, and newspapers using the library catalog, research databases, One Search, and more! Also, use libguides.asu.edu to learn about subject area librarians who can save you time by helping you to find sources you need.

3. Schedule appointments in the UASP Writing Centers at ASU. Get feedback on your writing at any point in your writing process—when you want to brainstorm ideas or discuss an outline with a tutor and when you want to get feedback on your first few paragraphs or pages. Visit tutoring.asu.edu/writing-centers to make an appointment with a writing tutor.



4. Manage a writing assignment like a project. Schedule time to write on your calendar. Write down when you will start brainstorming, getting sources from the library, writing a first draft, making a writing center appointment, and talking to your professor.

5. Build in different times for editing vs. revising. Avoid revising content in your essay at the same time that you edit for issues like grammar. Revising asks you to take a closer look at your paper by considering how well you have developed your ideas and made your point. Try reading your draft aloud to identify the following: what information needs to be added or changed, where you can add transitions, and how clear your thesis or argument is. After revising, you're ready to edit for issues like grammar, sentence structure, and citation style formatting.

