

Finding the Time

Now that you've considered your audience and purpose and generated ideas about the topic, your next step is to sit down and write. Sometimes, this can be the most challenging step. It's easy to procrastinate when it's time to write a paper. At times, just about **anything** can seem more appealing than sitting down to write. Suddenly, things like dishes, grocery shopping, or mowing the lawn can take on a new appeal. When it's time to write, however, it's time to set those things aside and give yourself some focused time to put your topic into words. The first step to writing an effective draft is to set aside enough time to write it.

When and How to Write

What is the best way to write about a topic? The answer varies with each individual writer. Some writers work best late at night, while others like to write early in the morning. As you continue to write, you will discover what works best for you. Some people prefer to write their drafts on a computer. This option can be very efficient! When the time for revision arrives, you can simply make changes without having to retype the entire document. Other people prefer to write their drafts on paper, typing the draft later. While this option can be more time-consuming, some people find that the act of writing on the page helps them to come up with ideas. If one option doesn't work well for you, try something else. It takes a little trial and error to find out what works best for each individual writer.

Remembering Your Ideas

After you've set aside some time to write, take a look at your invention exercises to remember your ideas for the topic. If you have an outline, begin to follow it and see where it takes you. If you find yourself with a sudden case of writer's block, try looking back at your invention notes or even adding to them. Remember that writing is a **recursive** process; sometimes one step backward can bring you forward by leaps and bounds. Also, remember that a first draft **does not have to be perfect!** When drafting, you should write without worry. Not only will that prevent writer's block, but you can always make changes during the revision process.

Now it's time to find some focused time to write that draft. Good luck!