

Writing: Part 1 -- Writing Your Paper

Paper-Writing Topic 1: How Can I Write a Paper Faster?

What percent of the time do you think you write an outline before you actually begin writing a paper?

Why do you think you don't do it more often?

How long do you think it takes to pre-plan a paper that you are going to write?

What do you think you should put in that pre-plan?

We challenge you: actually put this to the test. Everyone that we see try this quickly sees the benefits when writing any paper, including essay questions for a test. Practice now by planning out (quickly) on another sheet of paper an essay summarizing what you learned last class period.



Paper-Writing Topic 2: How effective are most student writers?

What do you think are some of the wrong things on which to focus when you are writing a paper?

What are the wrong things many students spend their time focusing on?

If you were really honest with yourself, how focused on writing effectively are you when you write?

Which has been more important for you in the past: getting to the required length of the paper, or communicating your thoughts clearly?

What is one thing could you do to get 50% better in this area?



Paper-Writing Topic 3: Why is writing papers so important?

In the past, how important have you considered paper-writing to be on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being a total waste of time and 10 being crucial for your success?

Why is the ability to write a paper so important for you long-term?

How do you think writing can improve your communication skills?

Kent mentioned that paper-writing helps to demonstrate understanding. When you write a paper, is that your goal most of the time -- to demonstrate a clear understanding of the topic? If not, what could you do to focus more on communicating understanding in your papers?



Paper-Writing Topic 4: How can I become a great writer as a student?

What were the three keys Kent mentioned for becoming a better writer?

How connected is what you read to how well you write? Describe how you have thought about this in the past (or how you haven't thought about it).

Writing practice will help make you into a better writer. What are some easy ways for you personally to practice writing? (Hint: don't be afraid to think outside the box here)

On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being totally unclear, and 10 being 100% understandable, how clear would you say your writing is right now?

What is one thing that could make your writing 50% more clear?

Paper-Writing Topic 5: What needs to be in my pre-plan for writing a paper?



What are the two things to include in a pre-plan for a paper?

Why do you think this kind of plan would help you in your writing preparation?

If you did this kind of plan every time, how could it impact your clarity as a writer?

Why do you think this will improve your clarity and writing speed?

This is a different approach than just starting to write a paper. It involves extra effort at the beginning. Why do you think it would be worth it to pre-plan this way before any paper you write?

Do you have any questions about how to do this? Be sure to ask your teacher or email StudyRight.

Paper-Writing Topic 6: What should I do when writing for an essay test?

How often do you take the time to pre-plan in an essay test?



How do you think it could impact your writing if you did it 100% of the time?

Do you usually prepare an essay before writing that essay on an exam? Why or why not?

How would it change your grades if you took the initiative to practice every essay just once before taking the actual exam -- even if you just write out the pre-plan?

What is the biggest thing keeping you from planning out essays on a test? What is one way you could make progress on overcoming that challenge?



Paper-Writing Topic 7: What should I do when writing for an essay test?

StudyRight suggests you should always pre-plan every single paper. Why do you think this is important?

How often do you pre-plan a paper a day in advance? How could always doing that make a difference in your grades?

Why do research papers require more time of planning in advance?

If you were honest with yourself, how often right now would you say you are willing to pre-plan a paper?

Based on the answer you just gave, what do you think that says about the kind of student your current habits are going to make you into?

Are you happy with that answer? If not, what are you willing to do to change?



Writing: Part 2 -- Editing Your Paper

Paper-Editing Topic 1: Do I have to edit every paper I write?

How often do you edit your papers before you turn them in?

If you don't edit every paper before turning it in, why not?

How much time would it really take you to edit a page you wrote?

What would catching just one more error per page do for your grades?



Paper-Editing Topic 2: How can I edit a paper quickly? Part 1

How often do you actually use the spellcheck function when you type a paper?

If you're not typing on a computer, who is a good person to have go over your papers for you?

If you don't have someone edit your paper or don't use spellcheck, what do you think could be the result?



Paper-Editing Topic 3: How can I edit a paper quickly? Part 2

How often do you read what you've written aloud?

Why do you think reading your papers aloud is so important?

Have you ever tried this strategy? If so, how did it work for you?

If you've never used this strategy before, why do you think this could be helpful?

Do you have a paper with you right now that you've written recently? Whether you've turned it in or not, try reading it aloud. Record any mistakes you could have caught by doing this initially.



Paper-Editing Topic 4: How can I edit a paper quickly? Part 3

How often do you have someone read your paper and edit it for you?

Why do you think most people never do this?

How long do you think it would take to do this?

What is the impact it could have on your grades?

With the potential impact, do you think it is worth overcoming the reasons most people never do it? Why or why not?



Paper-Editing Topic 5: What are the benefits of having someone edit your paper?

What was it that Kent said was the main goal of having someone read your paper and edit it for you?

Do you think this could help with the clarity of your paper?

Why is it hard to make sure you are clear without someone reading your paper for you?

What is one thing you could do to actually ensure you'll apply this step?



Paper-Editing Topic 6: What resources do I need to edit a paper effectively?

Why do you think a dictionary would be important?

How often do you use a thesaurus to find new words?

Why do you think a thesaurus could improve your writing?

Are there any words you know you repeat frequently when you are writing?

Have you ever used these resources online? If you are at your computer, know that they are there for you online.



Paper-Editing Topic 7: Why is editing my paper so important?

What percent of students did Kent say were “skillful” writers?

Do you think you would be in the “skillful” category for writers?

What are two areas you could improve in your writing that could make a big difference in your grades long-term?

What is keeping you from being a truly great writer?

If you began to apply some of these simple skills for editing papers, what would the impact be on your grades?

