

Don't Let Your Paper Grade Fall!

By Wesley Burkit



Quick Tips to Creating Good Writing Habits

1. Know your audience!
 - a. Before you even start to write, take a few minutes to put into perspective why you are writing and who your intended audience is. If you are writing an APA scientific research paper, your scholarly language and the scientific audience will be different from that of a persuasive piece on why cranberry juice is the best beverage.
2. Adjust your scope
 - a. When choosing a topic or exploring how to answer a prompt, brainstorm a few different ideas. By having different themes to choose from, your brain can stretch to find varying pathways to answer the prompt.
 - i. Sometimes, when we answer a question the way we think the professor wants it answered, it is easy to get stuck with too little or too much information.
3. Location!
 - a. Find a nice, distraction free writing spot, structured enough to keep you productive, but calm enough so you do not get stressed!
 - i. I recommend the desks that run parallel to the windows on the second floor of the library!
4. Writer's block!
 - a. Brain dump on a piece of paper. Collect all the information you have in your head and any sources you may need to use for one document.
 - b. This will fill up the page and make the task less daunting!
5. Outline!
 - a. Piece together an outline
 - i. Where are you starting?
 - ii. What conclusion do you want to draw?
 - iii. How will you navigate there?
6. Revise
 - a. Read your work out loud for flow and grammar
 - b. Ask a friend to look it over and give you notes
 - c. Stop into the CACS Writing Center for a tutor to look over your paper with you!

Not sure how to navigate these steps alone or just want more support?

Stop by room 206 (second floor of the library) for some friendly faces, encouraging works, and writing guidance!