

First Draft

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Teen Essay Guide

Now it's time to write the first draft of the essay. Some people like to go in order: introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion. Others like to write the body paragraphs, then intro & conclusion. There's no wrong way to do it. Do what works for you. It may take 3 to 5 days to write the first draft, depending on the type of essay and length.

Step 1 - Gather your researched info

- your completed outline
 - research/evidence notes
 - already paraphrased/summarized evidence.
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Step 2 - Draft the essay

- **Body paragraphs** (note: you can begin with the introduction instead, if you wish)
 - Take the research for one point and write that body paragraph.
 - Refer to H4HS pages 139-42 on writing the body paragraphs.
 - If you have writer's block, write the first draft as if it's a freewrite. Review your research notes for one point, then simply freewrite on it. Don't worry too much about getting it "right" or the exact right words to use. Just write. The only difference from a regular freewrite is this time you'll work in the researched evidence and paraphrases/summaries.
 - If you feel stuck on how to include a particular point of research or evidence, pull out the Analyzing Quotes and Facts booklet in your binder and follow the steps.
 - Add citations where needed.

- **Introduction**

- Review H4HS pages 138-39, 143-146 for detailed tips on crafting an introduction.
- Laura Randazzo's [free introductory paragraph graphic organizer](#) download can be helpful.

- **Conclusion**

- H4HS pages 142-43, 146-148 for detailed tips on crafting conclusion.
- Laura Randazzo's [free concluding paragraph graphic organizer](#) can also be helpful.
- See MENSA's [writer's toolbox](#) page on conclusions. Useful tip!