Writing an Academic Paper
Academic Learning Centre
TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.
Steps in the Process

1. Understand
2. Plan
3. Research
4. Thesis
5. Outline
6. Write
7. Revise
8. Edit
Steps in the Process

Step 1: Understand the Assignment
Step 2: Create a Schedule
Step 3: Find Sources
Step 4: Form a Working Thesis Statement
Step 5: Outline your Paper
Step 6: Write a First Draft
Step 7: Revise
Step 8: Edit
Step 1: Understand the Assignment

“In answer to the question of what went wrong with unsuccessful student papers, by far the most common answer among faculty interviewed was that students did not follow directions” (Leki, 2007, p. 244).
Step 1

• Analyze the assignment instructions
• Underline and circle key words
  • Topic
  • Directive verbs
  • Length Requirements
  • Research Requirements
• Consider evaluation methods
• Ask your professor for clarification!
Step 1

Describe Krashen’s five hypotheses of language acquisition using examples to demonstrate each hypothesis in the “real world.” Critique Krashen’s hypotheses with reference to at least two scholarly sources. Your paper should be 800-1000 words and double-spaced. All sources should be cited using APA.

What is the topic?
Are there any directive verbs?
What are the length requirements?
What are the research requirements?
Step 1

Describe Krashen’s five hypotheses of language acquisition using examples to demonstrate each hypothesis in the “real world.” Critique Krashen’s hypotheses with reference to at least two scholarly sources. Your paper should be 800-1000 words and double-spaced. All sources should be cited using APA.
### Step 2: Create a Schedule

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Step 3: Find Sources

Some key questions to ask yourself before you begin your research include:

• How many sources are required?
• And what kind of sources you require?
Step 4: Form a Working Thesis Statement

- A declarative statement
- Identifies your topic
- States your point of view and presents an argument
- Acts as road map for the essay
Thesis Statement Example

While limited in scope, the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement was visionary at its inception and continues to benefit Canadians politically and economically.

What is the main topic?
What is the author’s argument
What are the sections of the paper?
Thesis Statement Example

While limited in scope, the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement was visionary at its inception and continues to benefit Canadians politically and economically.
While limited in scope, the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement was visionary at its inception and continues to benefit Canadians politically and economically.

Step 5: Outline your Paper

Introduction
1) Limitations
   Statement
   Evidence
   Commentary/Analysis
2) Political Benefits
   Statement
   Evidence
   Commentary/Analysis
3) Economic Benefits
   Statement
   Evidence
   Commentary/Analysis
Conclusion
Step 6: Write a First Draft

- Write draft sections of your academic paper
- Start by crafting a brief introduction that includes your thesis statement
- Don’t get held back by the introduction
- Develop paragraphs that address each of your main ideas
- Finish by writing a brief conclusion
Step 7: Revise

The check-list:

- ✔ Thesis
- ✔ Supporting ideas
- ✔ Clear main idea for each paragraph
- ✔ Sufficient evidence for each idea
- ✔ Logical organization of ideas
Step 8: Edit

- Run a spelling and grammar check
- Identify personal grammar problems
- Sentence structure and word choice
- Read the paper out loud
- Consult style manuals
Academic Learning Centre
Services

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Academic Learning Centre
academic_learning@umanitoba.ca
204-480-1481
References


