

Introduction

It is not possible to come up with a great final product without following a thoughtful process that will result in a good draft. Writing a draft helps with organising your ideas into a structure that resembles what your final document should look like.

Your assignment instruction should guide you in coming up with the overall structure of the assignment. For example, if you are writing an essay or research report, a basic structure will be provided by your department, and will outline the key components such as introductions, methods, discussion etc.

Drafting will enable you to focus your attention on completing specific sections of your assignment. It is helpful to start with the sections you understand better. When writing your first draft, focus on phrasing your ideas roughly into sentences and sentences into paragraphs.

This unit is intended to teach you how to produce your first draft. Upon completion of the unit, you will be able to:

- Convert broad ideas from the pre-writing stage into sentence.
- Develop sentences into a full-length paragraph without worrying about perfection initially.
- Write with the comfort that your initial ideas will be revised for depth and scientific detail at a later stage.

Learning Content

How to write your first draft

Writing a draft is about offering your best response to an assignment question, essay topic or other types of assignment briefs. We call this response, your thesis, which is the trajectory of your argument. In other words, your thesis reflects what you believe to be the correct answer to the question you have been asked or the topic you have been given.

Typically, any answer to a question will have multiple parts in academic writing. Writing a draft enables you to address all components of a question convincingly. Having engaged in pre-writing and setting out what you know on the subject, you can begin to create a narrative or tell a story around your topic. This will see you provide definitions for key concepts, and write out examples and case situations to illustrate your point. It is advisable to write a draft after you have done all the necessary reading. You will extract your supporting ideas from the relevant readings. This will require two things from you as a writer. Firstly, you will have to write out ideas obtained through research in your own words. Secondly, you will need to acknowledge your sources through in-text citation.

Breadth and depth

Sometimes you might have to write just to meet the word limit. This part in the process enables you not to worry so much about the depth and correctness of the details. Converting an outline or any product of the pre-writing stage into sentences and paragraphs is the ultimate goal when writing a draft. The final draft is simply a set of smaller pieces put together. Therefore, focusing on writing out your subheadings into fuller sections may help

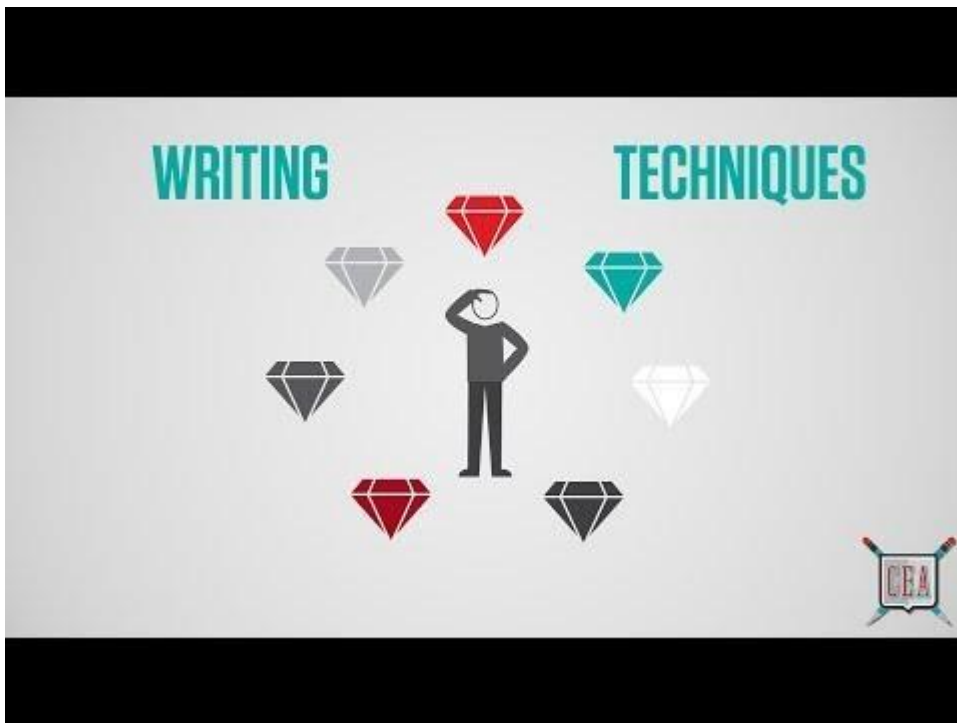
you come up with your first draft. Whether you focus on the breadth or depth, it is entirely up to you.

This is what you need to consider when writing your draft:

- Write as much as you can on points developed in the pre-writing stage
- Choose the part that you are mostly knowledgeable about
- Leave gaps where you believe you do not yet have sufficient information
- Avoid over-committing to perfection
- Making it logical comes later in the writing process
- Write, write, and write.

Resources

The following videos presents students with a variety of useful tips and suggestions. The first video discusses free writing as an approach to fast drafting, while second focuses on slow drafting:



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gw_vUNYLw5g

DRAFTING TURNS YOUR IDEAS INTO SENTENCES & PARAGRAPHS.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myHkqdkhBYg>

Summary

Writing a draft is a deliberate activity and you should allocate some time to writing a draft as opposed to chasing the final product. This unit has taught you the importance of developing the ideas you come with in the pre-writing stage into a draft. The draft will look like some type of finalised draft, as you will have developed words into sentences and sentences into full paragraphs, which should follow the structure prescribed in your assignment instruction or in your department. Having a draft gives you a sense of achievement. The next unit teaches how to translate the first draft into the final document.