

## 10 Tips to Improve Your Essay Writing

This advice will make a big improvement in your essay writing score.

There are many ways to improve your essay writing, and a lot of these don't involve studying at all.

Here is a list of 10 things to remember:

### 1. Answer the question

Your grammar may be perfect and your ideas may even be great. But, if you don't answer the question, you have wasted your time. If the question asks for your opinion, be sure to write about what *you* think. If the asks for a comparison, make sure that you do so.

### 2. Use short and simple sentences

Express your ideas simply and clearly. Short and simple sentences demonstrate a good crisp writing style. *Run-on* sentences are common mistakes that result from long complicated sentences. Long sentences also mean more grammatical errors.

### 3. Give your essays a beginning, middle, and end

Learn the basic essay structure. Your essay **MUST** have an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. This structure helps organize your writing and makes reading easily. **You MUST have a thesis statement**

The thesis statement is the most important sentence in the essay. It is last sentence in the first paragraph (the introduction), and it tells the reader exactly what your opinion is. A weak thesis statement results in a disorganized or incoherent essay.

### 5. Use topic sentences

A topic sentence is the first sentence of each paragraph in the essay's body. It gives the reader two things: 1) a summary of what will be in the paragraph, and 2) reasons that support your thesis statement.

### 6. Learn the conditionals: *first, second, and third*

Conditionals are especially useful when expressing opinions and giving reasons. Conditionals allow readers to understand the development of your essay.

### 7. Never begin a sentence with a conjunction

The words *and*, *but*, and *because* are all conjunctions. In English, we only use conjunctions to connect sentences--we almost never begin a sentence with one.

### 8. Learn how to use the comma (,) in English

Using the comma correctly will bring your writing to life. Commas allow continuity without unnecessary repetition. For example, The teacher, Mr. Jones led the field trip. This is better than Mr. Jones led the field trip and he was also the teacher.

### 9. Use the active voice

There are two "voices" in English: *active* and *passive*. Here they are:

ACTIVE: The boy is riding a bicycle.

PASSIVE: The bicycle is being ridden by the boy. .

The active voice is much stronger than the passive voice. Use the active voice as much as possible.

### 10. Use transitional words and phrases

Transitional words and phrases make your writing easier to understand. They connect ideas and present them to the reader in a logical order. Here are some examples: *First of all...*, *In addition...*, *More importantly...*, *In closing...*, *In conclusion...*