

# 5-Step Essay Writing Process

## Choose a Topic

### **BRAINSTORM TOPICS THAT INTEREST YOU**

The easiest essays to write are the ones that interest you. Find a topic or angle that you are really excited to write about. This makes the essay much more enjoyable and interesting.

## Figure Out Your Points

### **CREATE SUPPORTING IDEAS AND A MAIN POINT**

Think about why this topic is important or why someone should read this essay. Each supporting idea for this point should take up about two pages. So if you have an 8-page paper, you should have four supporting ideas leading to one overarching point.

## Make an Annotated Bibliography

### **ORGANIZE ALL OF YOUR SOURCES**

Set up a document with the title, full citation, and notes for each source. In the notes section, you can include relevant quotes (with page numbers!), pictures, and paraphrased ideas. This will keep your sources organized and all your research in one place.

## Write and Revise

### **DON'T BE AFRAID TO MAKE MISTAKES**

Give yourself permission to make mistakes to help with writer's block. Check for consistent verb tense, diverse word choice, and good transitions between ideas. You can have a friend, tutor, or teacher read over your essay to catch mistakes that you may have missed.

## The Finishing Touches

### **ENSURE EVERYTHING'S IN ORDER**

Use the essay rubric to make sure that you'll get full marks in every category. Use the dictation feature to read your essay aloud. This can help you catch misspellings and mistakes that you would normally skim over.