

Prepping for Midterm Papers

Facilitated by Professional Writing Specialist, Adrian Cepeda

1.29.25

Overview:

Most writers feel overwhelmed by the idea of crafting longer papers. While challenging, there are steps that help you tackle these assignments. Don't think of it as an impossible 10-page paper, instead, think of the paper assignment in parts. You cannot create a masterpiece in one sitting. You cannot cook a dish without taking steps. Think of this paper in sections and steps.

Remember that your first draft will rarely be perfect, but author Jane Smiley said it best: "Every first draft is perfect, because all a first draft has to do is exist."

Some Tips for Crafting a Mid-term Paper Draft:

- Ponder the topic you will write your paper on
- Take notes (while reading and during lectures) with the topic in mind so that you can remember specific quotes, sources, key ideas, and other pertinent information
- Use any assigned reflection papers on your topic as inspiration for you to build upon for the longer paper
- Write a simple outline. Don't spend too much time on this, but try to create a loose map to help organize the flow of your paper.
- While drafting the longer paper, don't worry about formatting—Just Write!
- Consider writing segments of the paper, like the introduction, the thesis statement, etc. Focus on one segment at a time
- Reach out for support along the way

Links to Remember:

- Contact the [TLC](#) to make an appointment with a Professional Writing Specialist who can help you with any stage of your writing
- Contact the [Antioch University Library](#) to make an appointment with a librarian who can help you access the library database