



## **9 tips for academic writing**

### **1. Write as much as possible**

Academic and non-academic texts, on all kinds of topics, different genres, for different readers: Do one small writing exercise every day, ideally right in the morning. For example, a five-minute freewriting exercise can make it much easier to get started with your text.

### **2. Create a comfortable space for writing**

Set up your ideal writing space, use your favourite material, write when you are at your best. Plan short writing sessions, truly relaxing breaks and rewards.

### **3. Give yourself enough time for all steps of the writing process**

Plan your writing project along the five phases of writing and be realistic about the time you have for each. Plan for buffers and breaks. Be clear about when you need your inner artist and your inner critic. Assume that it will take longer to find all the literature you need and that your lecturer won't have time for you straight away.

### **4. Allow yourself to be creative and let your inner artist write**

Write down all your ideas without censoring them and only judge them later. Let your ideas flow and use techniques such as clustering, freewriting, alphabet lists, images and the like. Try to approach your text in unusual ways.

### **5. Aim, research question and core message need to be clear to you**

Plan your structure in such a way that there is a clear line of argumentation. Visualise your structure. Remain flexible when you notice that your initial plan may not work.



## **6. Write a draft**

Imagine a specific reader and write your text as if you want to explain your topic to him or her. Keep writing while you are drafting and do not let your inner critic distract or demoralise you. Find and write in your own style.

## **7. Read your text out loud and get specific feedback**

Hearing your text will help you identify where you need to improve it. Get descriptive feedback from others to find out how your readers experience your text. Be specific about what you want feedback on. Also give feedback to others – it helps you improve your own writing.

## **8. Revise your text step by step**

Separate content, structure and style and leave editing right to the end. Concentrate on one or two things in each text that you want to be particularly mindful about. This will let you improve your writing competence one step at a time. When you read texts from your discipline, pay attention to how they solve the things you find difficult in your writing. This will let you learn from experienced writers. Stop revising when it's enough.

## **9. Be proud of your texts and celebrate your progress**