



Writing an Academic Paper

Academic Learning Centre



**University
of Manitoba**



TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES — ACKNOWLEDGEMENT —

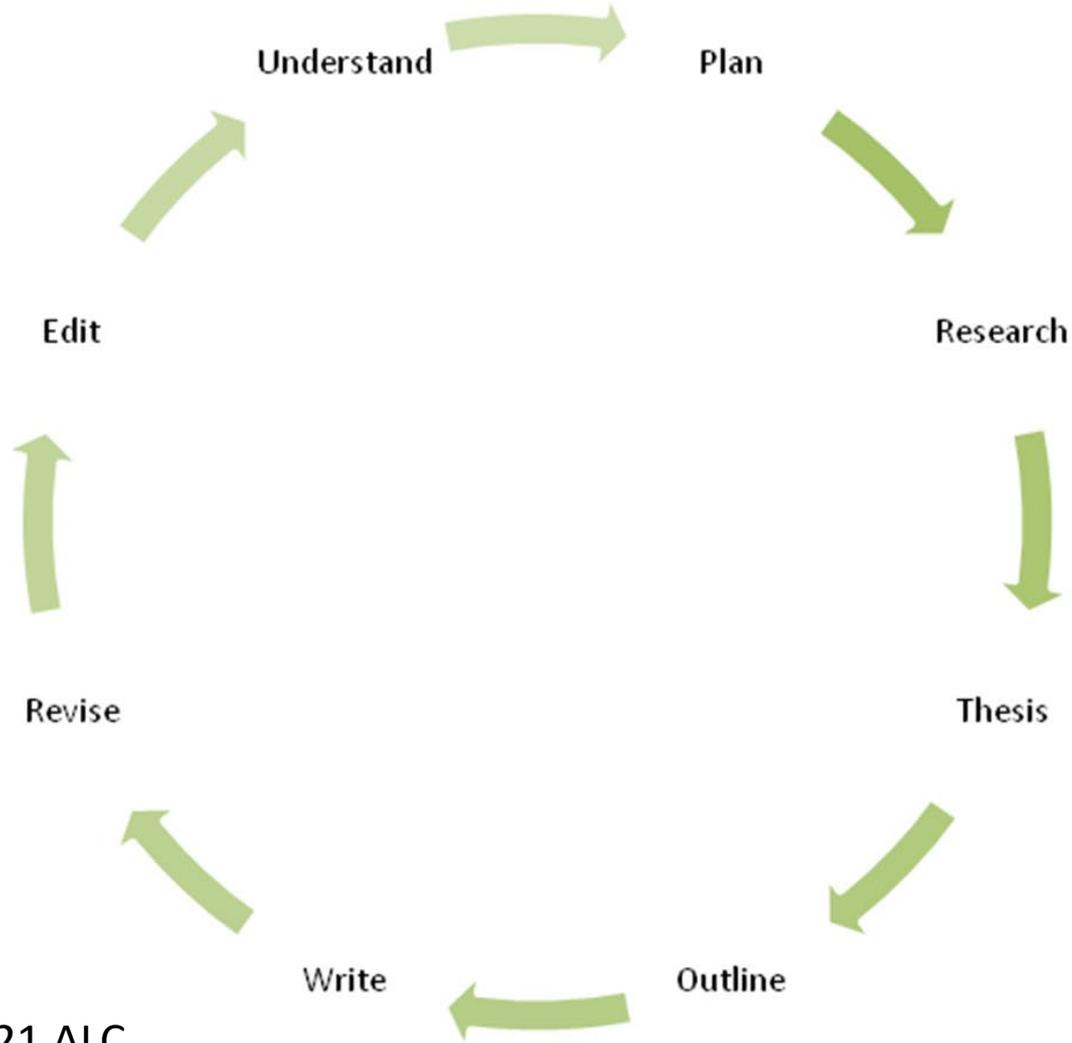
The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.





Steps in the Process





Steps in the Process

Step 1: Understand the Assignment

Step 2: Create a Schedule

Step 3: Find Sources

Step 4: Form a Working Thesis Statement

Step 5: Outline your Paper

Step 6: Write a First Draft

Step 7: Revise

Step 8: Edit





Step 1: Understand the Assignment

“In answer to the question of **what went wrong with unsuccessful student papers**, by far the most common answer among faculty interviewed was that **students did not follow directions**” (Leki, 2007, p. 244).





Step 1

- Analyze the assignment instructions
- Underline and circle key words
 - Topic
 - Directive verbs
 - Length Requirements
 - Research Requirements
- Consider evaluation methods
- Ask your professor for clarification!



Step 1

Describe Krashen's five hypotheses of language acquisition using examples to demonstrate each hypothesis in the "real world." Critique Krashen's hypotheses with reference to at least two scholarly sources. Your paper should be 800-1000 words and double-spaced. All sources should be cited using APA.

What is the topic?

Are there any directive verbs?

What are the length requirements?

What are the research requirements?





Step 1

Describe Krashen's five hypotheses of language acquisition using examples to demonstrate each hypothesis in the "real world." Critique Krashen's hypotheses with reference to at least two scholarly sources. Your paper should be 800-1000 words and double-spaced. All sources should be cited using APA.





Step 2: Create a Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Library	14	15	16	17 Outline	18
19	20	21	22	23 Draft #1	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		





Step 3: Find Sources

Some key questions to ask yourself before you begin your research include:

- How many sources are required?
- And what kind of sources you require?





Step 4: Form a Working Thesis Statement

- A declarative statement
- Identifies your topic
- States your point of view and presents an argument
- Acts as road map for the essay





Thesis Statement Example

While limited in scope, the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement was visionary at its inception and continues to benefit Canadians politically and economically.

What is the main topic?

What is the author's argument

What are the sections of the paper?





Thesis Statement Example

While limited in scope, the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement was visionary at its inception and continues to benefit Canadians politically and economically.





Introduction

1) **Limitations**

Statement

Evidence

Commentary/Analysis

2) **Political Benefits**

Statement

Evidence

Commentary/Analysis

3) **Economic Benefits**

Statement

Evidence

Commentary/Analysis

Conclusion

Step 5: Outline your Paper

Thesis: While limited in scope, the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement was visionary at its inception and continues to benefit Canadians politically and economically.





Step 6: Write a First Draft

- Write draft sections of your academic paper
- Start by crafting a brief introduction that includes your thesis statement
- Don't get held back by the introduction
- Develop paragraphs that address each of your main ideas
- Finish by writing a brief conclusion





Step 7: Revise

The check-list:

- Thesis
- Supporting ideas
- Clear main idea for each paragraph
- Sufficient evidence for each idea
- Logical organization of ideas





Step 8: Edit

- Run a spelling and grammar check
- Identify personal grammar problems
- Sentence structure and word choice
- Read the paper out loud
- Consult style manuals





Academic Learning Centre Services



Workshops and Presentations



Supplemental instruction (SI)



One-to-One tutoring



Tutor training program



Website resources

Academic Learning Centre
academic_learning@umanitoba.ca
204-480-1481



References

- Cioffi, F. (2017). *Imaginative Argument: A Practical Manifesto for Writers*. Princeton University Press.
- Leki, I. (2007). *Undergraduates in a second language: Challenges and complexities of academic literacy development*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Levin, P. (2009). *Write great essays* (2nd ed.). Open University Press.





**University
of Manitoba**