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mindmap



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writing process

Writing isn't just something you do in a sudden burst of activity when the essay deadline starts to loom - this last-minute approach usually produces poorly organized and incoherent essays. You need to develop a sense of writing as a process with a number of [phases](#), only the last few of which involve setting pen to paper (or finger to keyboard).

Students typically panic about writing because they feel they've **nothing to say**. This sense of mental blankness ([writer's block](#)) is, paradoxically, caused by being aware of too many possible things you *could* say. If you avoid committing yourself to any particular [approach](#), your mind is unable to form a coherent [mental picture](#) of the topic, so that it seems impossible to form a connected argument.

You can escape from this mental blankness by [defining the problem](#), which means not just [copying out a definition](#) from a dictionary, but systematically thinking through what the [question](#) is asking you to do and developing writing [strategies](#) on the basis of the [research](#) you've already done.

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