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Step 2: Write your first draft

Write everything you know and can think to say about your topic

Once you have selected your topic you are ready to begin writing your first draft. This is an important step, because it is your chance to express everything you know about your topic and everything you can say about it. The idea in writing your first draft is to write and write until you can't think of anything more to say.

In writing your first draft, it's very important that

- You have selected a topic that is full of ideas you want to share
- You are ready to sit and write non-stop for a good period of time
- You are comfortable
- Your mind is clear of all other ideas except your topic
- You have a writing place where you will not be distracted or interrupted
- You focus on getting your ideas on paper
- You remember that the first draft is not supposed to be perfect
- You do not worry about spelling, punctuation and grammar
- You keep writing until you have expressed absolutely everything you can say about the topic
- You type your ideas into your word processor and save it in your writing folder on the computer

Finishing your first draft is an important step towards publishing a piece of writing. Getting all your ideas on paper that first time is a big accomplishment! If you run out of class time while writing your first draft, you can certainly return to it the next opportunity you have to write and continue adding ideas.

The key here is to make sure you have included all your ideas on your topic. These ideas may not be perfectly organized yet and your writing is certainly not yet ready to be published, but you will have everything in place so that you are ready to move on to the next steps in the writing process.

What if you realize you're having a hard time finding things to say about your topic? That's usually a good sign that you should stop and select another topic. All writers experience times when they really don't have enough to say to write on a topic. It doesn't mean you've failed. It simply means you know enough to make a better choice. Good luck in choosing a successful topic for your first draft!

- Mallory