

# **The Portable College Essay Tutor: Save Time and Write Effectively**

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## **Table of Contents**

Acknowledgements.	2
Preface: Stepping Out of Oblivion.	3
Students: How to Use This Book.	5
Instructors: How to Use This Book.	5
Parents: How to Use This Book.	5
The Most Common Types of Essays.	6
Plagiarism: It's Not Worth It, Really.	7
Pre-Assessment: What Type of Learner Are You?.	9
Smart Researching.	10
Step One: Prewriting and Brainstorming.	12
Step Two: Create Your Outline and Thesis.	14
Step Three: Write Your Rough Draft	18
Step Four: Revise to Final Copy.	19
Tutoring: The Doctor Is In...No Charge!	23
The Writing Process Walk-Through Example Using This Book.	25
Compiled Resources.	31
Templates Appendix	33
About the Author	

## **Acknowledgements**

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## **Preface: Stepping Out of Oblivion**

It is within my confidence through experience and observation that many students save writing their papers for the last minute or resort to copying papers from sources such as the internet because they are not looking forward to writing. They become frustrated, and feel inadequate to write. I think most students want to learn; there just hasn't been an easy way to go about it or to carry forth valuable writing skills throughout the schooling years that can result in growth rather than review and relearn. Writing is indeed a difficult task that can take years to master. Even then you still find you are always learning something. Many students also begin unorganized and lack direction. However, communication is very important in our everyday lives and careers. Learning how to communicate effectively, including writing, can determine how well you can carry yourself through your career, your everyday life, and having better control of the present and future for yourself.

Following a writing method can help students achieving quantum leaps in their writing, instead of making the same mistakes over and over, and waiting for the same remarks from the instructor over and over. In my experience, I have found that instructors do not have the time, and sometimes the resources, to give the individual attention students need. Many instructors do not even require that students follow a prescribed method of writing that includes all the aspects of the writing process: brainstorming, prewriting, outlining, drafting, and revising. Sure, these things are taught, but most of the time all these steps are not required for submitting an assignment. In addition, students find themselves pressed for time due to taking other classes, work responsibilities, family responsibilities, etc.

In my experiences as a student, professional tutor, and instructor, I have combined this triad point-of-view, along with a writing method, into a portable handbook for students that is easy to follow. More importantly, it helps the student become time efficient without sacrificing quality of writing. In fact, using this writing method has only shown writing growth for students--in quantum leaps.

What makes this book unique is that it demonstrates to students how to save time writing while also teaching them how to write effectively based on what I've learned as a professional tutor working with students one-on-one and as a classroom instructor for Developmental English. This handbook offers insider tips and shortcuts to keep students ahead of the process instead of falling behind or cramming at the last minute. This helps students become skillful, confident writers in the shortest time possible, unlike several other college writing textbooks that either contain too much complicated information or not enough explanation and end up being thrown in the corner somewhere to collect dust.

In my educated opinion, backed by research and experience, I think students will find this book to supersede: the market of general writing books, reference books, spark charts-type guides, and its purpose to be an excellent complement to a course textbook. This book can also compete with tutoring services, though it is not meant to necessarily replace them. However, tutoring services have limited tutors, time, and resources that may not be convenient for the student for every assignment. Therefore, the student can carry this companion to obtain help when needed. I also have included a special emphasis on plagiarism, which is one of the reasons this book was created: to realize your full potential as a writer that is not torturous in process to help decrease student plagiarism and increase student learning growth.

This book is different than others in the genre because it simplifies the process of writing a college essay dramatically, eliminating the need for excessive references and resources, textbook studying, and it does not sacrifice quality of writing. Students will learn to save time by using their time wisely. Several resources are available in the book for advanced practice and extra time-saving tips. This book is meant to be small enough to carry around with ease, and students will have everything they need to complete their assignments. It is also my hope this book will help make students more independent with their assignments, rather than feeling a lack of confidence and beginning assignments at the last minute. Instructors and/or tutors may always not be conveniently available, so this book is designed to help replace those resources (at least temporarily) when the student is not in class and/or on campus.

This book is written through the point of view of a professional writing tutor and English instructor, so I worked with students at a peer, individual level for most of my career, understanding the most common mistakes and pitfalls of writing and grammar that I learned the slow, difficult way over many years through the point-of-view as a student and teacher. My hope is to condense this knowledge into a small volume that students can learn faster from and lessen the dread of writing that more often stems from lack of guidance, resources, and confidence.

## **Students: How to Use This Book:**

This book is arranged according to the steps of the writing process: prewriting, researching, outlining, drafting, and revising. Therefore, following each section will guide you through completing your essay assignment in a time-efficient, qualitative manner. Towards the end of the book, there is also a sample walk-through on how one would complete an assignment using the steps explained in this book. The specific amount of time it will actually take to complete your assignment will depend on the type of essay, page requirements, and research requirements. However, this book is designed to help make the writing process more seamless, helping you to spend less time thinking about what to do, and instead spending your time in the action stage. This book also contains several resources to enhance your writing experience, thus complementing the writing process illustrated in this book. Help is available for topic ideas, thesis building, essay mapping, bibliography writing, research hunting, and more. You are also encouraged to seek help from your instructor and campus tutor when you need it beyond the scope of what this book can give you at an individual level. Keep this book with you; you'll have everything you need when you need it-which can help you become less dependent on other outside resources for completing your assignment, which also results in you being less inclined to waste precious time.

## **Instructors: How to Use This Book:**

As an instructor, you may want to use this book as part of your curriculum. You can require it along with the main textbook, or encourage students to purchase one at the campus bookstore, local bookstore, or online. Having this handbook can help students be more confident when completing their essay assignments outside of class, and it might be especially helpful for students writing essays who are not in English classes as well. It's also noteworthy to mention that not all students have taken a composition class first in their college career, so they may be entering your class without those basic writing tools.

## **Parents: How to Use This Book:**

As parents, we want serve as guiding forces for our children. Giving this book to your child can help him or her receive the guidance needed in becoming a more confident writer in school, rather than dreading the process and not seeing much growth between assignments. Remember, this book provides assistance from a professional writing tutor, instructor, and student all-in-one, which makes it unique from many other reference books on the market today. This is a book meant to stay with the student, not placed in the corner somewhere and forgotten. Knowledge and guidance are some of the most precious gifts you can give to your children to help them throughout their lives.