

**Module 5: The Literary Response to the Changing World**  
**Topic 4 Content: Writing Your First Draft**



Writing Your First Draft

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### Topic 4 Content: Writing Your First Draft



You do not want to procrastinate with the drafting step in the writing process. Getting your first draft written in a timely fashion will allow you extra time to have someone read over it and give you feedback. In this way, you will have sufficient time to revise and edit the draft before its final submission. By now, you should have a solid opinion on a topic, a list of sources with information you plan to use to support your opinion, and an outline of your paper. Now, it is time to write your rough draft and Works Cited page.

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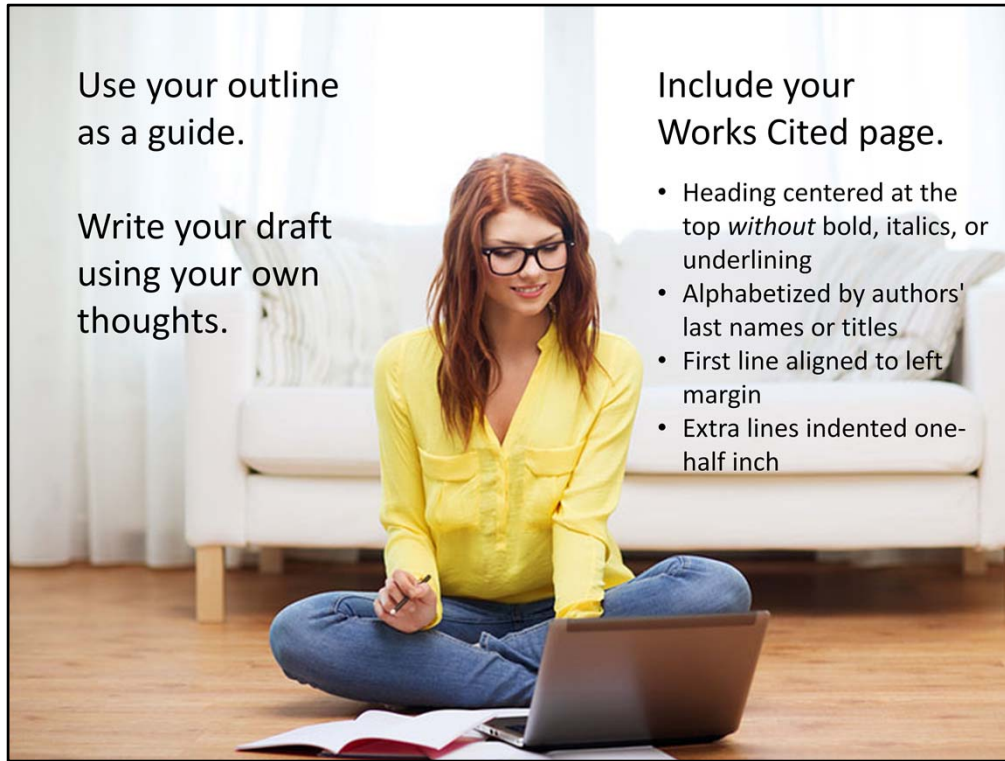
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Clear some time in your schedule to write the rough draft with as few interruptions as possible. Make sure you do not wait too long before it is due because you want to allow yourself enough time to make any corrections. It is best to write your rough draft in one sitting; then, give yourself some time away from it before returning to read and edit it with fresh eyes. Even though it is the first draft of your persuasive research paper, you should place as much care into it as you can in order to produce your best work. That can make revising it into your final paper much easier. However, do not allow worrying over your first draft to prevent you from finishing it in a timely fashion. Relax and enjoy the process of getting down all your thoughts on paper; you will have time later to fix any parts that may not satisfy you.

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It is recommended that you write your rough draft using the following tips:

- Use your outline as a guide in order to keep your ideas in a logical and coherent order. Each Roman numeral and capital letter signals a new paragraph.
- Write your draft using your own thoughts to generate the greater balance of ideas. Citations should not be relied upon solely or predominantly to prove the thesis.
- Include your Works Cited page at the end of the paper as a separate page. The heading *Works Cited* should be centered at the top of the page in the same size font with no use of bold, italics, or underlining. The list is alphabetized by authors' last names (or by title when a work has no author). The first line of each entry is aligned to the left margin; extra lines are indented one-half inch. Each entry should contain all the citation information needed for a reader to look up the source.