

Writing a Process Paragraph

WRITING ASSIGNMENT 1

Personal

Choose one of the topics below to write about in a process paragraph.

- How to feed a family on a budget
- How to break up with a boyfriend or girlfriend
- How to keep your computer up-to-date and virus-free
- How to change a car or bike tire
- How to get rid of house or garden pests, such as mice, roaches, or wasps
- How to play a simple game like checkers, tic-tac-toe, or an easy card game
- How to shorten a skirt or pants
- How to meet new people, for either dating or friendship
- How to plant a garden
- How to deal with a nosy person
- How to fix a leaky faucet, a clogged drain, or the like
- How to make tomato sauce
- How to study for an important exam
- How to conduct a yard or garage sale
- How to wash dishes efficiently, clean a bathroom, or do laundry

PREWRITING

- a. Begin by freewriting on your topic for ten minutes. Do not worry about spelling, grammar, organization, or other matters of form. Just write whatever comes into your head regarding the topic. Keep writing for more than ten minutes if ideas keep coming to you. This freewriting will give you a base of raw material to draw from during the next phase of your work on the paragraph. After freewriting, you should have a sense of whether there is enough material available for you to write a process paragraph about the topic. If so, continue as explained below. If there is not enough material, choose another topic and freewrite about *it* for ten minutes.
- b. Write a clear, direct topic sentence stating the process you are going to describe. For instance, if you are going to describe a way to study for major exams, your topic sentence might be “My study-skills instructor has suggested a good way to study for major exams.” Or you can state in your topic sentence the process and the number of steps involved: “My technique for changing a bike tire involves four main steps.”