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PROVISIONAL PEN MONTHLY

The official e-newsletter of Provisional Pen Writing Services



BACK TO SCHOOL!

Many writers will be heading back to school this month, whether online, in person, or in some combination of the two. However you or the academic writer in your life attend this fall, we encourage you to learn about the resources available to you or them. In this issue, you'll find info about what's on the Provisional Pen blog, how technology can help you succeed, and where to find customized help with your writing projects. We wish you a successful academic year.

Happy Writing!

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WRITING SERVICES

ACADEMIC WRITING HELP

The Provisional Pen blog covers a variety of writing topics to help readers with all kinds of projects. This includes academic writing, so be sure to explore our blog posts in the following general categories:

- [Editing and Proofreading](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Resources for Writers](#)
- [Uncategorized](#)
- [Writing Basics](#)
- [Writing Prompts](#)
- [Writing Tips](#)

You may find our more specific categories helpful as well, depending on the project you're working on.

Remember, you're not alone when it comes to academic writing.

Check out our blog for advice you can access anytime!



WRITING TIP OF THE MONTH

USE TECHNOLOGY EFFECTIVELY

We sure have a complicated relationship with technology, don't we? It can be super frustrating when it doesn't work correctly and our hard work is lost, but it makes submitting our work from anywhere so much easier. It gets a bad rap for being a distraction in educational settings, but, if we use it with the right purposes in mind, technology can actually help us succeed as academic writers.

Instead of wasting time online, use technology to increase your productivity.

Yes, it's easy to use our Internet connection and portable devices to check out videos and other media that interest us. That's fine, but when there's work to do, why not use technology to your advantage? With Google Docs, you can write wherever you are, save your documents, access your files on other devices, and submit your completed work. Or, you can save in the file format you need (like a Word doc) and upload your work to whatever course management software your school uses. Either way, be sure to

follow the required setup for the assignment, whether MLA, APA, or something else. To avoid losing any work, you can also save files in multiple places (like in Docs, Google Drive, sent to your email address as an attachment, and on a flash drive).

Instead of distracting yourself with social media, try apps designed to boost your language skills.

We know how tempting it is to check Facebook or Twitter or Instagram every few seconds, but there are better ways to use your screen time. If you tend to frequently use your phone anyway, apps like [these from Merriam-Webster](#) could be a great way for you to combine something you enjoy with something that can improve your writing performance.

New programs and resources that can help you with academic writing become available all the time, so explore what's out there once in a while. That's the kind of screen time that's well spent.



MONTHLY WRITING INSPIRATION

USE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Academic writing can be an overwhelming prospect at times, especially when making the transition from high school to college or even from one school to another. More than just honing your writing skills, the path to success also involves learning the expectations of new instructors each semester and handling a lot of responsibility. If this sometimes feels impossible, please know you're not alone. Next time you're feeling stuck or you need advice about your writing projects, seek help from one or more of these resources:

Your Instructors

Professors can seem intimidating; we totally get that. But, they are there to help you succeed. So, once you've done a thorough job of trying to understand an assignment on your own, go ahead and contact your instructor if you still have questions. You can ask in class if an opportunity presents itself, or take advantage of technology and office hours if applicable.

Your School's Writing Center

Many universities offer writing tutoring services. There's no shame in using these, and you're

actually paying for them as part of your tuition. Tutors are familiar with the typical assignments and even sometimes specific instructors' expectations, so they can help you if you're struggling. They can work with you even if you're not struggling. Everyone can benefit from discussing their writing with other writers, which is exactly what happens during a tutoring session. Your school may even offer online tutoring, which could be particularly useful right now.

Your School Library

You probably already know how awesome librarians are, but in case you don't, they can definitely save you some frustration when it comes to research-based writing. In fact, the librarians who work in college and university libraries are specially trained to assist with academic research. If you can't visit in person, many libraries offer online chat and email contact options.

As you return to school in the near future, take some time to learn about the resources available to you. All writers need help at some point; why not find it sooner rather than later?



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