

Academic Services for Student-Athletes

Getting Started

Sometimes getting started is the hardest part of writing a paper. You may be given a topic to write about, or it may be your responsibility to develop a topic. There are things to be aware of as you select a topic. Ask yourself these questions: Does it “fit” the assignment? If research is required, will there be enough information readily available? As always check with your professor if necessary.

Once you have chosen a topic, you will want to develop a thesis statement - which is basically the point you want to make in the paper. Your thesis will be somewhat tentative until your research is complete, but it will give you some guidance as you proceed. Once your thesis is developed, think about how you will organize the paper and develop an outline. This is critical because it will keep you focused on your topic and will save time on rewriting and rearranging.