

WRITING A PAPER IN APPLIED HUMAN SCIENCE

Writing in Applied Human Science can be quite different to writing for other programs. Many AHSC courses emphasize experiential, reflective learning with you at the centre, so be prepared to write logs and journals and use these observations in your papers. For this reason, some professors (but not all) like you to write using “I” and “you” Read your course outline carefully to understand the mission and aim of the class. AHSC professors are often very specific about what they expect in an assignment. If there are guidelines, follow them conscientiously.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ASSIGNMENT

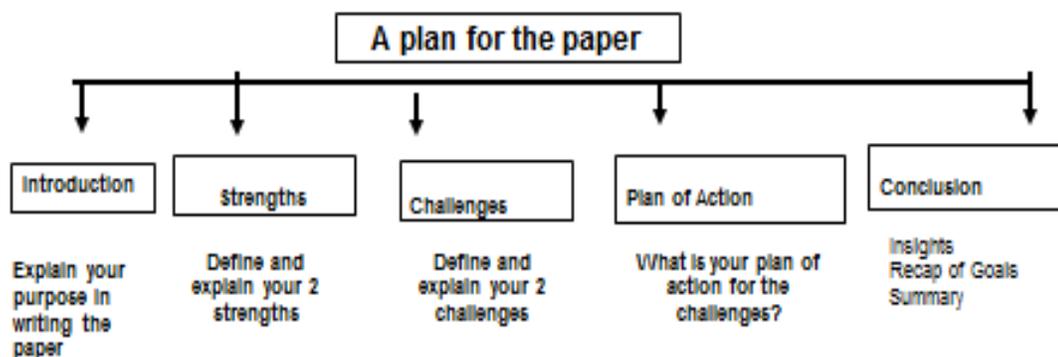
- Read the assignment carefully
- Determine the purpose of the assignment (this gives a clue as to the purpose of your paper)/
- Underline key words that determine the required sections of your paper

Example of an AHSC writing assignment description:

“Examine your strengths and challenges as a learner and examine your learning process—how you, personally, learn”. Define 2 strengths and 2 challenges and explain how they reflect and relate to you as a learner—habits, preoccupations. Discuss how they impact you as student and in day-to-day life. What barriers do the challenges present? What strategies have you taken to overcome them? How effective have they been?

2. SKETCH A PLAN FOR YOUR PAPER

- Using the key (important) words describing the assignment, design a plan to develop the paper, including all the required sections.
- As an example, here is a plan based on the assignment above:



3. GENERATE IDEAS FOR YOUR PAPER

- Brainstorm ideas under the various key words in your plan
- Read over your logs and highlight significant details to use as examples.
- Look over your text and other sources for theory and definitions that fit with your ideas.

4. WRITE A FIRST DRAFT

- Follow your plan
- Write one section at a time, starting with the easiest
- Save the intro and conclusion till last
- Write quickly as you might talk to an interested friend (without slang)
- Write ideas, not just words
- Don't worry about correct spelling, grammar, etc. as you write your first draft
- Try to connect your personal information and examples to theories. Always be specific and explain yourself well.

5. WRITE THE INTRO AND CONCLUSION

- The intro should state the purpose of the paper and preview the main ideas of your paper
- The conclusion should summarize the main ideas of your paper (similar to the intro) and answer "so what?" (further action you will take, what you learned about this, how you feel about this course, etc)

6. REVISE YOUR PAPER

- Let your paper rest at least overnight
- Check the **organization** of your paper: check to see that you followed your plan and the guidelines and did not omit sections; check that your paragraphs are well constructed with a clear topic sentence that the paragraph then develops with examples, theory, details, etc.
- Check the **content** for accuracy, clarity and completeness
- Check the **language** for correctness and style: make a hard copy and read your paper out loud to catch errors
- Use spell check; use a handbook to check grammar
- Cite your sources correctly, APA style: see a Writing Assistant in the Student Success Centre if you need help

7. COMPLETE YOUR PAPER

- by adding a Title Page, Table of Contents, Headings, Reference List, etc. as required(see APA manual)

8. PROOFREAD, ONE LAST TIME