How to Get Started with Writing Assignments

Many people agree that writing papers isn’t their favorite task. It takes time, effort, research, planning, and a good grasp on language. If we all had a better idea about a good way to start a writing assignment, we might find it a lot less painful. Check out these steps to make sure you’re ready for the semester’s essays:

1. Make sure that by the end of the first week you know exactly how many written assignments you must complete and the required length of each assignment.

2. During the first week of class, discuss major writing assignments with your instructor and ask any questions you have. This will help you figure out exactly what is expected of your writing assignments.

3. Divide the semester into units of writing assignments. You should plan to devote at a few days to the preparation and writing of each paper—not just one day the night before your assignment is due.

4. Mark off days on your calendar to make sure you are on track with your assignment plan (see step 3).

5. Reserve a few days with a fellow classmate to brainstorm writing assignments, revise, or edit with a peer.

6. If you want a professional to look at your paper before you turn it in, check out the resources at the Writing and Reading Success Center.

There are, of course, many great ways to get started with a paper and every person has their own method. But these tips are sure to help out anyone seeking to avoid the stress of last-minute writing decisions.