

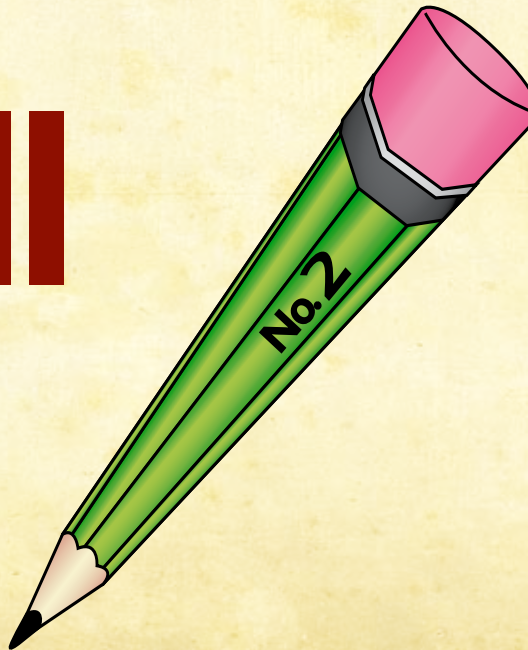
# The **WRITING** CENTER

**Elftmann Student  
Success Center**

**A Guide On  
How To:**

**Write A  
Rough Draft**

- Why do I need one?
- How do I write one?
- Can I see an example?



# Writing A Rough Draft

A rough draft should be just that – *rough*.

## Why do I need a rough draft?

The sole purpose of a rough draft is to give you a place to start to formally put together your ideas with evidence. Additionally, writing a rough draft lets you gauge if you need to do more research, change your purpose, or switch topics completely.

## What do I need to write a rough draft?

If you've been following the writing process, your rough draft should be relatively easy. Plan your time and space accordingly, and bring with you:

- Your pre-writing notes
- Your research
- References, like a dictionary or thesaurus
- The assignment description, usually found on your syllabus, a hand out, or notes you took from the verbal instructions given

## How can I use my pre-writing to write my rough draft?

With any pre-writing strategy, you came up with the basic outline of what your paragraphs will be about. Now, to create your rough draft, you should only have to turn those phrases into complete sentences.

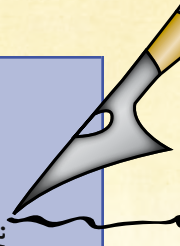


It's helpful to put your sentences into an outline before you put them into a paragraph format. This way, you can adjust the order of the sentences as you see fit, and make sure that your ideas are focused. Use your paragraph pattern to help you decide this. Once you have this decided, go back and create topic and closing sentences for your paragraphs.

## Can I see an example?

Let's use an example on nuclear energy. Our rough draft will turn the main ideas into sentences, and put those sentences together into a paragraph.

Pre-Writing	Rough Draft - Sentence Outline	Rough Draft - Complete Paragraph
<b>II. Advantages of nuclear energy</b>	<i>Nuclear energy is advantageous to the environment</i>	<i>Nuclear energy is advantageous to the environment and the humans who use it.</i>
<b>A. Clean</b>	<i>Unlike coal or petroleum, nuclear energy produces relatively little pollution during manufacturing and use.</i>	<i>Unlike coal or petroleum, nuclear energy produces relatively little pollution during manufacturing and use. Additionally, nuclear energy is a renewable source of energy, whereas other sources</i>
<b>B. Renewable</b>	<i>of energy, whereas other source made from fossil fuels are finite.</i>	<i>made from fossil fuels are finite. Most importantly, the waste that nuclear energy produces is small compared</i>
<b>C. Disposal</b>	<i>to that of fossil fuels.</i>	<i>to that of fossil fuels. Nuclear energy's clear advantage over fossil fuels is often overshadowed by the fears that stem from the disadvantages of it.</i>
<b>D. Closing</b>	<i>Nuclear energy's clear advantage over fossil is often overshadowed by the fears that stem from the disadvantages of it.</i>	





## References

- Landsberger, Joe. (1996). Study guides and strategies. Retrieved from <http://www.studygs.net>
- Zackery, DeBorah Green. (2010). Paragraph writing handbook. Informally published manuscript, Student Success, Dunwoody College of Technology, Minneapolis, MN.

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